

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

**Tips and trips
for the 2005
ski season**

Travel magazine inside



**Families of dead
soldiers solidify
political views**

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**Lakenheath
runner in
chase for title**

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Runner Greg Billington leads the pack

Volume 63, No. 194 © EPSS 2004

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2004

50¢

Army will not shorten Iraq deployments

Schoomaker says 1-year tours needed to maintain troop levels Page 5



Mannheim brigade dedicates memorial to its lost in Iraq

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PHOTOS BY JON R. ANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

Left: An 18th Military Police Brigade soldier pays honor at the unit's new memorial to the 13 troops who died in Operation Iraq Freedom I. The memorial was unveiled at the brigade headquarters in Mannheim, Germany. Above: Lt. Col. John Garrity carries a ring of dog tags stamped with the names of all seven of the soldiers he has lost in Iraq.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Schiavo right-to-die case: A man trying to carry out what he claims are his wife's wishes in a long-running right-to-die case asked two Florida courts Tuesday to stop delaying the removal of a feeding tube that helps keep the woman alive.

George Felos, the attorney for Michael Schiavo, asked Pinellas Circuit Court Judge George Greer to reconsider a seven-week delay on the removal of Terri Schiavo's feeding tube.

Howard Stern vs. FCC: Shock jock Howard Stern made a surprise call to a radio station during an interview of the Federal Communications Commission head, claiming the chairman only got his job because his father is Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Stern called in to KGO-AM radio in San Francisco during a live interview Tuesday with FCC Chairman Michael Powell. After claiming Powell consistently avoids him, Stern began to question his credentials.

"How did you get your job? It is apparent to most of us in broadcasting that your father got your job, and you kind of sit there and you're the judge, you're the arbiter, you're the one who tells us what we can and can't say on the air," Stern said. "And yet I really don't even think you're qualified to be the head of the commission."

Powell, a Republican, was appointed to the commission by President Clinton in 1997 and became chairman when President Bush took office in 2001. Powell denied Stern's charge.

O.J. Simpson settlement: A friend of O.J. Simpson has been ordered to appear in court regarding the finances of the former football star, who was acquitted of double murder but slapped with a \$33.5 million settlement that remains unpaid to the victims' families.

Alfred Beardsley must appear Nov. 23 in Los Angeles Superior Court in Santa Monica. The order, issued Tuesday, was at the request of Fred Goldman, whose son Ron was killed in 1996 along with Nicole Brown Simpson.

Fenway Park death: An independent panel headed by former U.S. Attorney Donald K. Stern will investigate the death of a college student who was shot by Boston police using pepper pellet guns to subdue rowdy Red Sox fans after the team won the American League pennant.

Victoria Snelgrove, a junior at Emerson College, was killed last week when she was hit in the eye by a pellet fired by police as they tried to control the situation outside Fenway Park after the Red Sox beat their archrivals, the New York Yankees.

Two of the officers who fired pepper balls into the crowd weren't trained to use the weapons. The Boston Globe reported Wednesday.

World

Yasser Arafat's health: A blood test and an endoscopy on Yasser Arafat have dispelled suspicions he has cancer in his digestive tract, one of the Palestinian leader's doctors said Wednesday.

On Tuesday, a hospital official said Arafat, 75, was suffering from a large gallstone. The gallstone, while extremely painful, is life-threatening and can be easily treated, the official said.

Arafat was examined by doctors at his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

North Korean asylum-seekers: Chinese police detained 65 North Korean asylum-seekers hiding in two houses in Beijing. South Korean activists said Wednesday, accusing China of carrying out "hardline mea-



Flu shot shortage: Baldwin County residents form a winding line Tuesday as they wait to get into the Baldwin County Health Department for flu shots in Robertsdale, Ala. The health department will give out its supply of 1,430 shots in four days. Meanwhile, federal employees who face serious complications from the flu will be able to get free flu shots at work starting next week, the Health and Human Services Department said Tuesday. Some lawmakers and constituents said members of Congress should not be getting special treatment at a time when Americans are waiting in line for flu shots around the country.

sures" to round up refugees from its ally, North Korea.

Two South Korean human rights activists also were detained in the raid Tuesday on the Chinese capital's east side. South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported.

The detentions came amid a surge in large-scale asylum bids in recent weeks. Scores of North Koreans are in the Canadian and South Korean embassies and other foreign facilities in Beijing, waiting for permission to leave for South Korea.

WMD proliferation: The top U.S. envoy for arms control named North Korea, Iran and Syria among the worst proliferators of weapons of mass destruction Wednesday, and called for shipments to the countries to be monitored more closely.

"North Korea, Iran and Syria, among others, are clearly states of proliferation concern," U.S. Undersecretary of State John Bolton said in a speech at The American Center in Tokyo.

Bolton is visiting Japan to observe multinational exercises, held under President Bush's Proliferation Security Initiative, or PSI, aimed at training troops to intercept weapons of mass destruction at sea.

War on terrorism

Islamic cleric's trial: A militant Islamic cleric accused by the United States of being a key terror leader in Southeast Asia goes on trial Thursday, charged in the Bali bombings and the J.W. Marriott hotel attack in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The trial of Abu Bakar Bashir comes a week after President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono took office in the world's most populous Muslim nation, and will be seen as a test of his election campaign promises to crack down on terrorism.

The 66-year-old Bashir was acquitted last year of separate terrorism charges. The verdict was widely criticized abroad.

An indictment names Bashir as the leader of Jemaah Islamiyah, the terror group blamed for the 2003 bombing of the Marriott and the 2002 Bali bombings. Eleven people died in the Marriott attack; 202 were killed on Bali.

Grimo detainees: A federal judge says he will not allow an 18-year-old Canadian held

with other terror suspects at a U.S. naval station in Cuba to be examined to determine if he is mentally fit to help his defense.

U.S. District Judge John D. Bates ruled Tuesday that there is no legal basis to order a mental competence exam before Omar Khadr's status is reviewed by a military tribunal at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Khadr, who was 15 when U.S. forces captured him in Afghanistan, was wounded in a battle that killed a U.S. soldier and injured four others, the military says.

Accused lawyer: A veteran civil rights lawyer accused of helping terrorists on Tuesday denied ever violating prison rules designed to shut off a convicted terrorist she represented from the rest of the world.

The attorney, Lynne Stewart, firmly registered her denial from the witness stand in New York as she for a second day answered questions posed by her lawyer Michael Tigar.

Tigar aimed the defense at the core of evidence against Stewart — special administration measures, or SAMs, put in place by the government to stop Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman from communicating from prison with his followers in Egypt and elsewhere.

Stewart, 65, is charged with providing material support to terrorists, defrauding the government and making false statements for letting Abdel-Rahman's views on a cease-fire in Egypt reach followers. If convicted, she could face 20 years in prison.

Iraq travel ban: The Philippine government will stamp citizens' passports with a travel ban notice in a further attempt to keep them out of war-ravaged Iraq, the foreign secretary said Wednesday.

Despite a ban on travel to Iraq issued last July, at least 2,000 Filipinos searching for work have flocked to the country, reports said.

Middle East-bound Filipino workers will have their passports stamped with the notice "Not valid for travel to Iraq" to prevent them from sneaking into Iraq, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said.

Despite the dangers, Filipinos risk their lives for work in Iraq to earn wages up to three times higher than in other Middle Eastern locations, he said.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Dangers of drugs focus of Red Ribbon Week

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

Clothes are worn backward. Healthy meals are being prepared. And the color red is everywhere.

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Europe is using such measures to stress the dangers of drug use as part of Red Ribbon Week.

Red Ribbon Week began with a drug-related tragedy. In 1985, a Drug Enforcement Administration special agent, Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, was kidnapped and killed by a drug gang he was investigating. Red ribbons became the way an outraged America showed its feelings.

In 1988, the National Family Partnership adopted the idea as a way to emphasize the danger of drug use. More than 80 million people are taking part in some sort of Red Ribbon Week event.

In Aviano, Italy, students wore red clothes to school on Red Tuesday, with a prize awarded to the student with the most red. At Croughton American School on RAF Croughton, England, the week included "Turn Your Back on Drugs Day," when students wore their clothes backward.

"We have a different theme every day," said Trisha Taylor,



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Above: Members of Hatchetboy 888, a band of Naples High School students, perform during an anti-drug concert after school Wednesday. Lining the stage was a chain of red links with students' names who pledge to be drug-free and tombstones of famous musicians who've died because of drugs or alcohol. Right: Nadia Vasquez, 13, a seventh-grader at Naval Station Rota, Spain, shows off her drug-free wristband Wednesday.

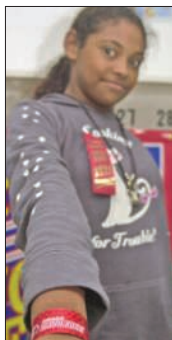
Croughton school counselor. In addition, the students plant to plant flower bulbs so the schoolyard will blossom with red flowers in the spring.

Other schools are having other events. Alconbury Elementary School at RAF Alconbury, England, was visited Tuesday by

McGruff, the Crime Dog.

In Heidelberg, Germany, middle school pupils were being taught how to prepare healthy meals.

Chris Lavin, counselor for Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Services at Heidelberg, said a series of events this week stress-



SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

ing fitness and good health shows children that being fit is cooler than using drugs.

Also, a flag-raising ceremony was to be held Wednesday morning in Heidelberg to honor Camarena. Members of the 411th Base Support Battalion military police were volunteering to participate.

The students are excited by the events of Red Ribbon Week. They enjoy special treats such as "Being Drug Free is a Piece of Cake Day" at Aviano, when cakes are brought to classrooms as treats.

But no one thinks one week of anti-drug efforts is enough.

"No one program is going to be 100 percent effective," said Stan Caldwell, Alconbury Elementary principal. He said the school spends the entire year preaching the message about drug use through programs such as Drug Abuse Resistance Education.

Taylor said, "I think to do things like [Red Ribbon Week] so they can take a message away is good."

But, she said, it would be an interesting study to see how effective such events are in making the message stick.

Lavin said the week of events reinforces what is taught throughout the year regarding drug abuse.

"I'm always in the classroom [talking about the dangers of drugs]," he said.

"At the elementary level, it's just another opportunity for us to say what you put in your body matters," said Kris Kessler, counselor at Aviano Elementary.

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Mannheim memorial reminds brigade what was lost, gained in Iraq

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

MANNHEIM, Germany — Lt. Col. John Garrity remembers well the day Staff Sgt. Bobby Franklin died.

When Garrity, commander of the 709th Military Police Battalion, arrived at the scene of the ambush on Oct. 20, 2003, a small surgical team already was working furiously to save the doomed soldier where he fell to an insurgent's roadside bomb on the dusty streets of Baghdad.

Within minutes, another ambush was unleashed wounding an entire squad of Garrity's MPs on the other side of town.

"It was a nightmare day," said Garrity. It was the kind of day soldiers pray they never see, but refuse to forget.

Not that he needs the help, but Garrity — along with his command sergeant major — carries a ring of dog tags from all seven of the soldiers they've lost during the war in Iraq, each one representing a day — and a life — Garrity knows he will remember well to his own last breath.

On Wednesday, the Germany-based 18th Military Police Brigade unveiled a memorial honoring those who made the ultimate

sacrifice in Iraq. The brigade has had troops deployed to Iraq continuously since the war began.

On a humble, granite pillar — black with streaks of crimson rust — the names of all 13 soldiers who died during the first year of occupation in Iraq are inscribed under the twin battle axes of the brigade's patch.

"Many of us grew up occasionally visiting monuments in our own country emblazoned with the names of heroes we never knew. Now we understand," the brigade commander, Col. James Brown, told the gathering of troops assembled to quietly dedicate the memorial.

The names on this monument represent soldiers we knew, loved and called friends. Their loss stabs out our hearts and steels our resolve to reap the harvest that they have planted through their service and sacrifice."

Col. James Brown

brigade commander

ing the lives cut short.

"It's never easy," said Spc. Wayne Olson, who was fresh out of his Riverside, Calif., high school when he deployed to Iraq with the brigade, seeing more death than many do in an entire lifetime, "but I try to remember their accomplishments, rather than



PHOTOS BY JON R. ANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

Above: An 18th Military Police Brigade soldier reaches out to the name of a fallen comrade. A new memorial to the 13 soldiers who died in Operation Iraqi Freedom I was unveiled Wednesday at the brigade headquarters in Mannheim, Germany.

their passing away."

While small, the new memorial will help others remember those accomplishments with a price, said Olson.

"It's something that's really needed," added Sgt. 1st Class David Gilchrist, a platoon sergeant in the brigade.

When Spc. Rachel Bosveld died on Oct. 26 from an insurgent's mortar round, "it was my hardest day in Iraq. I have three daughters of my own and while I don't know what it's like to lose one of your own

kids, on that day I think I came as close as you possibly can."

It is a day, he said, that he will remember well. And one that, he hopes, others will remember.

"I think it's important for the soldiers who come after us to remember those who have come before and paid the ultimate sacrifice. With this memorial, I know that Bosveld will not be forgotten."

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AFN move to Mannheim signals end of era

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

The last vestige of the U.S. military in the heart of Frankfurt, Germany, draws to a close Thursday.

For nearly 60 years, dating to when Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower set up his first postwar headquarters in the city on the Main River, Frankfurt has been home to generations of U.S. military personnel. But ever since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the number of troops, units and bases has dropped precipitously, the most significant decline coming about a decade ago.

Now, with American Forces

Network-Europe spending its last official day on air in Frankfurt, the drawdown of forces from the city has all but run its course. Essentially, all that remains is Rhein-Main Air Base, which is due to close at the end of next year.

"AFN [the last U.S. military] institution in the city proper," said Thomas Scheben, a city spokesman.

"There are not so many uniforms anymore," he added.

When AFN takes to the air on Friday, it will be from its new, state-of-the-art facility on Coleman Barracks in Mannheim. The network has spent about \$8 mil-

lion on renovations and roughly \$5 million for new equipment, based on figures supplied last year.

"The new facilities and equipment bring our process into the digital age," Army Lt. Col. Ricky Sims, commander of AFN-Europe, said in a written statement.

"Moving also brings us closer to the communities where much of our audience lives and works," he said. "We're better positioned now to deploy and adapt our services to meet the ever-changing needs" across the theater.

The decision to relocate the AFN headquarters was also a pragmatic one.

In July 2000, a U.S. Army Europe review of AFN's status in Frankfurt concluded that its "isolated location and high-profile mission put personnel at significant force protection risk," according to the network.

Located adjacent to Hessischer Rundfunk, the state of Hessen's broadcast network, the cost of providing security to the AFN site totaled about \$120,000 a year. In addition, AFN estimated it would have had to spend \$1 million on force protection and building upgrades to stay put.

According to Sims, the facility in Mannheim will enable his broadcasters to use digital equipment — gear comparable to what

commercial networks use in the United States — that will provide viewers and listeners with a higher quality picture and sound.

AFN personnel have been moving equipment and other items to Mannheim for weeks. Officials say AFN customers shouldn't expect any interruption in service.

Hedda Coulon, a lawyer for Hessischer Rundfunk, said in a telephone interview Wednesday that she and her colleagues will miss AFN, which has occupied a nearby separate building since 1966.

"We've always had a good relationship with AFN," Coulon said. "We are sad they are leaving."

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Learning about safety is a SNAP



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Chelsea Parson, 2, chats with McGruff the Crime Dog at the Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program (SNAP) kickoff at Ramstein's Donnelly Park on Tuesday. The SNAP program is a community-based volunteer initiative that focuses on keeping military neighborhoods safe.

Schweinfurt's Halloween festivities

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — Trick or treat for Schweinfurt will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday at Askren Manor housing area. For details, call DSN 354-1600 or civilian 09721-961600.

There also is a harvest festival Friday, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Ledward gym. For details, call 354-1570 or 09721-961570.

Spanish Mass at Giessen community chapel

GIESSEN, Germany — The 284th Base Support Battalion's Catholic chaplain will feature a Sunday Mass in Spanish next month.

Army Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Ehrhart has said Mass a few times in Spanish, but community leaders hope to make it a practice twice a month, said Luz Medeiros, the event coordinator.

The special Mass is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Nov. 7 at the community chapel in the Marshall Housing Area across from the Giessen Depot. A potluck dinner to celebrate Thanksgiving will follow the Mass.

For more information, call Medeiros at: DSN 343-6500, or civilian (0641-402-6500). The phone number for the chaplain's office is: DSN 343-8020.

From staff reports

Dexheim expo showcases services

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

DEXHEIM, Germany — Troops and family members got an earful of the latest happenings in Dexheim on Wednesday.

A community expo, held in a large warehouse connected to the fitness center, offered informational booklets on community services and gave away gifts.

The one-stop-shop expo brought together 33 organization representatives from the 221st Base Support Battalion to the small Army installation, said Donna Dean, spokeswoman for the 221st BSB.

The expo offered everything from single soldier benefits to family services.

Though many of the booths showcased services that are available on post, the expo was about bringing more services or high-lighting program news in the community.

For instance, the School Age Services currently has no waiting list and is actively recruiting teens and looking for volunteers; the health clinic is offering suggestions on how to stay clear of the influenza virus without taking the flu shot; and the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is just starting up after a long deployment and would like to hear what single troops have to say.

Also, the School Liaison Services is making a push to get families who qualify for the reduced or free lunches program to receive the benefit.

Peter Witmer, school liaison officer, said that's pretty much any single-income, E-6 or below family.

"Many people qualify, but are reluctant to take advantage of the benefit," Witmer said. "There was a GS-12 who almost qualified, and I have E-7s and an E-8 who have qualified for the program."

In addition to the services already available on Dexheim, representatives from the provost marshal's office and vehicle registration office, which are normally about a half-hour away in Wiesbaden, were at the expo.



PHOTOS BY JESSICA INIGO/Stars and Stripes

Above: Mary C. Williams, sitting at the Defense Commissary Agency booth at the Dexheim Community Expo, offers residents gift bags and explains the latest news. She said beginning Nov. 28 the Dexheim commissary will be closed on Mondays. Below: Spc. Jeremiah Prime, with the 19th Support Center, 13th Corps Support Command, helps with the Outdoor Recreation booth during the Expo Wednesday. Prime was recently named the 221st Base Support Battalion volunteer of the quarter by Outdoor Tec.



It wasn't all just serious business, though.

Staff Sgt. Shane Fosher, with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 123rd Main Support Battalion on Dexheim, said his favorite was the Outdoor Recreation booth.

"There's information on paraling and many other extreme sports," Fosher said while holding pamphlets from the ODR table.

"Soldiers thrive on an opportunity to do stuff like this."

Sgt. Charles Garland, of the same unit, said he liked the booth offering financial advice with programs on how to save money.

"Having an expo like this here is really great because there are a lot of young soldiers here who don't know all what's being offered through the community," he said.

"Many just drink their way through Germany, and this expo is giving them the opportunity to put a little away for the future."

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Army keeping Iraq tours at 1 year

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army will not shorten combat tours in Iraq next year from 12 months to six or nine months, as some had hoped, because that would undermine the war effort, the Army's top general said Tuesday.

Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff, told a group of reporters that he would prefer shorter combat tours in Iraq but believes that cannot happen as long as the U.S. military is required to maintain roughly the 135,000 troops there now to fight the insurgency.

The Army and Marine Corps are preparing to maintain that level at least through the end of next year. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has said that if U.S.-trained and equipped Iraqi security forces become available

Schoomaker: Shorter tours would undermine war effort

in larger numbers next year, as expected, then U.S. troops levels may be reduced.

On a related matter, the Army's vice chief of staff, Gen. Richard Cody, said the Army has not been asked to accelerate the deployment of a fresh rotation of troops into Iraq. These include four brigades of the 3rd Infantry Division, which is scheduled to go there in January.

Some have cited the possibility of getting some of the 3rd Infantry to Iraq sooner to bolster the force in the final weeks before Iraq holds elections in late January.

"He hasn't asked for that," Cody said, referring to Gen. John Abizaid, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East. If asked, the

Army could speed up some of the deployments, Cody said.

The 3rd Infantry, which spearheaded the drive to Baghdad in March and April 2003, has been reorganizing this year and will be the first division to make a return deployment to Iraq.

When the war began in March 2003, there was little debate about the length of combat tours in Iraq because the Pentagon did not expect to keep large numbers of troops there for more than a few months after the fall of Baghdad, which occurred in April 2003. By that summer, however, the 12-month rule was adopted for both active-duty and reserve units, and a few units have been ordered to stay even longer.

Schoomaker and Cody cited several drawbacks to shortening

combat tours under current circumstances, which include an insurgency that continues to adapt its tactics of killing coalition and Iraqi forces.

■ The fight against the insurgents will be more effective if there is not a frequent turnover of American troops, in part because on-the-ground experience pays dividends in understanding the enemy.

■ The effort to integrate U.S.-trained Iraqi forces into American fighting units in coming months will be more successful if they spend longer periods operating together.

■ National Guard and Reserve forces have to put in the same amount of pre-deployment training and preparation for going to

Iraq regardless of whether they stay for six months or 12 months. Thus shorter tours would mean mobilizing and training more Guard and Reserve units, if the overall force requirement remains the same.

"You also have the dilemma of the operational readiness over there who say, you know, if you go to [tours of] six months you're only going to get about four months' use out of the force," because of the time it takes to get fully geared up for operations once arriving in Iraq, Schoomaker said.

"That means you're going to have constant handover of contacts with the local populace, which is exactly what you don't want to do in an insurgency," he added. "You want that continuity" that comes with longer tours.

British troops head toward Baghdad

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Nearly 900 British forces left their bases in southern Iraq on Wednesday, heading north toward Baghdad to replace U.S. troops who are expected to take part in an offensive against insurgent strongholds.

The deployment came hours after Iraq's most feared militant group released a video threatening to behead a Japanese captive

within 48 hours unless Japan withdraws its troops from Iraq.

The British troops, headquartered in Basra, are heading to an area near the capital to replace U.S. troops who are expected to launch a major offensive against rebel areas west and north of the capital.

"We can confirm that there is some movement," said British military spokesman Maj. Charlie Mayo. He gave no specifics on

troop numbers, citing security concerns.

Large flatbed trucks were seen carrying armoured British vehicles up a road through Iraq's southern desert to Nasiriyah, 200 miles southeast of Baghdad, where it appeared the troops were stopping for the night.

Nearly 800 Scottish soldiers of the First Battalion, Black Watch are expected to be based in an area just south of the capital to

free up American forces for an expected assault on the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah and other areas.

The move is part of a coalition effort to bring order to Iraq before elections in January. British officials have been wary of the precise destination with some media reports indicating the Black Watch would be sent to Iskandariyah located north of Baghdad.

The British soldiers' families expressed worries Wednesday that the redeployment puts the troops in greater danger.

"It wasn't a cakewalk in Basra, but it's going to be a lot, lot more dangerous up there," said James Buchanan, 56, from Arbroath in central Scotland, who has two sons with the regiment in Iraq.

The American military wants the British to assume security responsibility in areas close to Baghdad, so U.S. Marines and soldiers can be shifted to insurgent strongholds west of the capital, including Fallujah.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's decision to agree to the U.S. request for redeployment is a politically sensitive one for the British leader, whose popularity has plummeted because of his support for the Iraq war.

Britain's 8,500 troops are based around the southern port city of Basra in a relatively peaceful area of Iraq. Sixty-eight British soldiers have been killed in Iraq, compared with more than 1,000 U.S. troops.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi rejected kidnappers' demands in the most recent hostage drama.

"The Self-Defense Forces will not withdraw," Koizumi told reporters in western Japan. "I cannot allow terrorism and cannot bow to terrorism."

The video's authenticity could not be independently confirmed but the Japanese government later identified the captive as 24-year-old Shosei Koda.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,108 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 846 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department as of Tuesday. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Tuesday at 10 a.m. EDT.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 970 U.S. military members have died, according to the AP's count. That includes at least 737 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 8,150 U.S. service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest death reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identification reported by the military:

■ Army Sgt. Dennis J. Boles, 46, Homosassa, Fla., died Sunday in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait after collapsing during a 10-mile road march; assigned to the Army National Guard's 171st Aviation Battalion, Brooksville, Fla.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Richard Slocum, 19, Saugus, Calif.; died Sunday in a vehicle accident near Abu Ghurayb, Iraq, assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base, Hawaii.

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MWGERMANY.COM

Democracy, a tough course in new Iraq

Troops from FOB Hawk help out when town reaches debate impasse

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAWK, Iraq — The ones who stood out first were the mayor, the imam and the sheik. The women, though, soon took over.

The mayor wore a navy jacket, the imam and sheik fluttered in turbanned and draped. The women wore floral-hued scarves. The mayor, the imam, the sheik and some studded men all took seats around the long table. Most of the women sat along the walls near the children.

The 20 or so people were the council and notables of Iraqi Village, a settlement of squatters in the Abu Ghraib area, and last week they had grievances.

Major Patrick Barry, executive officer of the 303rd Armor Battalion of the Washington National Guard, would listen to them all for hours.

The villagers didn't really own the land upon which they squabbed, they just took it over after Saddam Hussein fell. Barry described it as Iraqi government property, but the new government allowed the squatters to form an unofficial town council.

The council would gather at the Forward Operating Base Hawk when things got out of hand, and ask the Americans for help. Their enthusiasms for voting combined with verbal jousting, talk of real violence and want of a strong man showed a people in search of democracy, but wanting desperately to impose their will upon the other guy nonetheless.

During the course of the meeting, the mayor would prove defensive, the imam would maintain pious distance from this thing called democracy, the sheik would pine for the days when he was held in highest esteem. The women in scarves, initially demure, would vent.

The village mayor had seized the daycare and installed his wife as principal and had hired his daughter-in-law, too, some said. The mayor said she was the most qualified.

Another man said the council sent him a letter threatening to use him as a human shield. The women of the daycare complained that the mayor's son showed up to the school brandishing an AK-47.

"Well, OK," Barry started. "Did anyone send a threatening letter that we should know about?"

"Sending threatening letters is a big deal, and I want to find out

what's going on."

Someone said the council did not send any such letter. "This is a note when someone is out of order, and goes outside the rules," an interpreter explained.

The man who was disciplined by the letter had somehow interfered in the brouhaha over the daycare and something to do with sports, and was told to mind his own business.

A woman in a lilac scarf fired off a staccato burst in Arabic. There is nothing to the letter, she insisted.

The square-jawed major listened, fingers locked in front of him on the table. Beside him sat his civil affairs officer, 1st Lt. Glenn Allen. Sgt. 1st Class Richard Allen studied things from the back of the room.

After much heat, everyone seemed willing to forget the letter. "So there's no problem," Barry said. "Let's move on."

Then it was on to the charge of nepotism. The women usurped by the mayor's wife said they ran the daycare just fine in the past, and not only that, they griped, the wife was something like 60 and too old to run a daycare. It was all just like the Ba'athists, they said.

The mayor said he could have installed his wife a long time ago if he was so desirous, but he did not.

"Excuse me," a woman called out in English.

An apparent council member piped up, and Jimmy Sarno, a civilian interpreter, translated: "We are run by people without education, without a degree, without being civilized."

Three men, apparently the mayor's supporters and including the man with the letter, stood up to leave. There was noise and shuffle. A woman accused the lot of flashing an AK-47 around at the school. The men eventually sat back down.

"Let me ask you this," Barry said. "Who is best qualified to run the daycare?"

One woman, apparently one of those fired, said she had experienced UNICEF. Then the staccato woman handed over signatures calling for a new election.

"He is running things like a dictator," she said of the mayor.

"There's apparently a split in the council," Barry said. "No council is perfect. But we have to come to a place where we aren't stifled by our disagreements." Soon it was a tsunami of gesturing and hand backed by grimmaces. They asked Barry to choose.

"If you're opposed to these five people," Barry said of the new



WARD SANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

Residents and council members of Iraqi Village come to an impasse during a meeting with U.S. Army National Guard members last week. The residents voice their problems at meetings on Forward Operating Base Hawk so troops can help solve disputes.

daycare staff, "tell me what names you'd put there instead."

The mayor said his wife had a graduate degree in education. Why couldn't he hire her when she is wise and he the mayor?

"Someone's going to have to compromise," Barry replied. The mayor told the major he wanted him around more often.

The imam, who mostly sat gaunt and silent but whose presence felt like that of a stern re-cess monitor, spoke at last. The imam said something to the effect that he was a religious man and this business of politics was a dirty one. He had turned down a council seat himself. His law was the Koran.

"I appreciate your comments, and understand that religion is a lot less messy than politics," Barry told him. "You have the ability to walk above a lot of the mud."

The imam nodded and smiled. Barry told the council the mayor should side with most of the time, and should act alone only when he really believes in something.

This made the opponents angry. They brought up the mayor's son and the incident with the Kalashnikov.

One, two, three hours passed, and then more. The afternoon sun would drop in the sky toward evening. Barry kept asking who should run the daycare. The lieutenant had to leave. The mayor would stay.

Democracy, it turns out, takes time and compromises, voting instead of shouting.

The dark-turbaned sheik, face round and bearded, said things were different before this chaos of voting for a mayor. Back then, he was in charge. He braved danger and dealt with outlaws and never complained. Why have the people abandoned him?

It was difficult for a foreigner to follow, an opera in another tongue. How did Barry do it?

Sgt. 1st Class Allen, still sitting in back, said it could be done if you treat it like football.

"We basically had to put out a playbook on all this to keep track of everyone."

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at: sandersonw@mail.stripses.osd.mil

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Officer: No order was given to secure arms

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING
The Associated Press

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — A U.S. military unit that reached a munitions storage installation after the invasion of Iraq had no orders to search or secure the site, where officials say nearly 400 tons of explosives have vanished.

When troops from the 101st Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade arrived at the Al-Qaqaa installation south of Baghdad a day or so after other coalition troops seized the capital on April 9, 2003, there were already looters throughout the facility, Lt. Col. Fred Wellman, deputy public affairs officer for the unit, told The Associated Press.

The soldiers "secured the area they were in and looked to a limited amount of bunkers to ensure chemical weapons were not present in their area," Wellman wrote in an e-mail to the AP.

"Bombs were found but not chemical weapons in that immediate area. Orders were not given from higher to search or to secure the facility or to search for HE type munitions, as they (high-explosive weapons) were everywhere in Iraq," he wrote.

The 101st Airborne was at least the second military unit to arrive at Al-Qaqaa after the U.S.-led invasion began. Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman told The Washington Post that the 3rd Infantry Division reached the site around April 3, fought with Iraqi forces and occupied the site. It left after two days for Baghdad, the Post reported Wednesday.

AP correspondent Chris Tomlinson, who was embedded with the 3rd Infantry but didn't go to Al-Qaqaa, described the search of Iraqi military facilities south of Baghdad as brief, cursory missions to seek out hostile troops, not to inventory or secure weapons.

The enormous size of the bases, the rapid pace of the advance on Baghdad and a limited number of troops made it impossible for U.S. commanders to allocate any resources to guard any of the facilities after making a check, Tomlinson said.

The disappearance of the explosives was first reported in Monday's New York Times and has subsequently become a heated issue in the U.S. presidential campaign.

Sen. John Kerry's campaign called the disappearance the latest in a "tragic series of blunders" in Iraq by President Bush's administration.

Vice President Dick Cheney raised the possibility the explosives disappeared before the U.S. soldiers secured the site, and he complained that Kerry does not mention the "400,000 tons of weapons and explosives that our

101st Airborne GIs stopped at Al-Qaqaa on way to Baghdad

troops have captured."

Two weeks ago, Iraqi officials told the International Atomic Energy Agency that the explosives vanished from the Al-Qaqaa installation as a result of "theft and looting... due to lack of security." The ministry's letter said the explosives were stolen sometime after coalition forces took control of Baghdad.

The disappearance, which the IAEA reported to the U.N. Security Council on Monday, has raised questions about why the United States didn't do more to secure the facility and failed to allow full international inspections to resume after the invasion.

Russia, citing the disappearance, called on the Security Council to discuss the return of U.N. weapons inspectors to Iraq. But the United States said American inspectors were investigating the loss and that there was no need for U.N. experts to return.

Russian U.N. Ambassador Andrei Denisov insisted that raising the issue in the council was "practical," not political, saying the explosives posed a danger.

The explosives at Al-Qaqaa had been housed in storage bunkers at the facility. U.N. nuclear inspectors placed fresh seals over the bunker doors in January 2003. The inspectors visited Al-Qaqaa for the last time on March 15, 2003, and reported that the seals were not broken — therefore, the weapons were still there at the time.

The team then pulled out of the country in advance of the invasion. The Al-Qaqaa munitions included HMX and RDX, key components in plastic explosives, which insurgents in Iraq have used in bomb attacks. But HMX is also a "dual use" substance powerful enough to ignite the fissile material in an atomic bomb and set off a nuclear chain reaction.

NBC correspondent Lai Ling Jew, who was with the 101st, told MSNBC that "there wasn't a search" of Al-Qaqaa. "The mission that the brigade had was to get to Baghdad," she said. "As far as we could tell, there was no move to secure the weapons, nothing to keep looters away."

Wellman, the 101st Airborne spokesman, said he does not know if any troops were left at the facility once combat troops from the 2nd Brigade left.

Lt. Gen. William Boykin, the Pentagon's deputy undersecretary of defense for intelligence, said that on May 27, 2003, a U.S. military team specifically looking for weapons went to the site but did not find anything with IAEA stickers on it.

The Pentagon would not say whether it had informed the IAEA that the conventional explosives were not where they were supposed to be.

The IAEA had pulled out of Iraq in 1998, and by the time it re-

turned in 2002, it confirmed that 35 tons of HMX were missing.

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei told the United Nations in February 2003 that Iraq had declared that "HMX previously under IAEA seal had been transferred

for use in the production of industrial explosives, primarily to cement plants as a booster for explosives used in quarrying."

He did not specifically mention Al-Qaqaa in his February 2003 briefing to the United Nations.



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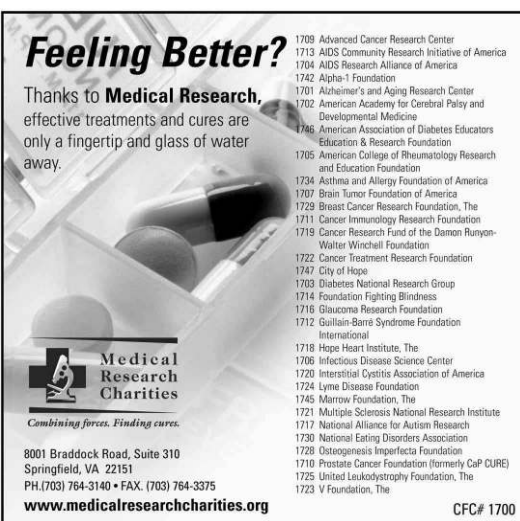
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TROY SARRIA/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Sgt. 1st Class David Dennis, left, with the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance), shows students how to properly load a patient in a Black Hawk during a Combat Lifesavers training class earlier this month at LSA Anaconda, Iraq.

Lifesaver training gets lift as medic units join forces

BY JULIANA GITTLER
Stars and Stripes

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Soldiers from across the base fulfilled a military medical requirement and learned the most realistic and relevant training possible through a combat lifesaver program launched this month.

Instead of just the basics, such as intravenous injections, splints and bandages, soldiers practiced loading an injured comrade into a Black Hawk and other skills.

When the unit responsible for medical education shifted its mission in August, members from all the medical units remaining — Army, Air Force, aviation and ci-

vilian — came together to take over, adding their respective expertise to maintain combat lifesaver education at Anaconda.

"They all have different experience and pitch in different resources," said Capt. Troy Sarria, who coordinates the new cooperative medical education group.

The Army requires one in 10 soldiers in every unit to have combat lifesaver certification to treat immediate life-threatening

wounds, said Maj. Kristi Hilton, with the 13th Corps Support Command medical logistics section.

"They all have different experience and pitch in different resources."

Capt. Troy Sarria
Medical education group coordinator

It's up to units to make sure their soldiers stay up on training. And since units can't travel to Kuwait before heading home without combat lifesavers in tow, the need is more urgent as Operation Iraqi Freedom II comes to a close.

Units had "to make sure all that training has been done prior to them leaving," said Maj. Valerie Smith, operations officer for the 118th Area Support Medical Battalion.

About 200 soldiers needed to be recertified and 150 certified in the next few months, Hilton said.

"Everybody had a piece of the pie, that kept one unit from having to do it all," Hilton said. "We were able to make the classes a little bigger."

The course includes theater-specific sections not part of a normal combat lifesaver class including field sanitation, combat stress and loading a helicopter for an air evacuation.

When the topic is combat lifesaving and the students are in Iraq, teachers discovered an eager group of pupils.

"[Instructors] think they definitely paid attention more than they would back in the States," Sarria said.

The new group will offer combat lifesaver training and retraining, as well as certification for medics.

Ten groups from the Army, Air Force and the contracting firm KBR are participating, including the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance), the 78th Combat Stress Unit and the 226th Medical Logistics, for supplies, Hilton said.

Many of the units include reservists and National Guardsmen who have medical backgrounds in their civilian lives and add different support, said Lt. Col. Robert Cody, 118th Medical Battalion commander.

While some units have medics who could recertify their own soldiers, the partnership eases the burden on those that don't.

The partnership has also brought the medical units together to collaborate on base-wide medical planning, which didn't really exist before.

"Information sharing is now much better," Smith said.

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IN THE STATES

Bush, Kerry campaign hard in last stretch

The Associated Press

SILOU CITY, Iowa — Sen. John Kerry accused President Bush on Wednesday of “dodging and bobbing and weaving” on explanations for nearly 400 tons of missing explosives in Iraq. Bush said his presidential challenger was making wild charges without knowing the facts.

Less than a week before the election, both campaigns intensified their efforts — in speeches, in TV ads, in telephone appeals and in courtrooms across the nation. With their agendas laid out all summer and fall, Bush and Kerry were trying to create an aura of excitement in get-out-the-vote rallies, hoping to snag the dwindling pool of voters who haven't taken sides.

Kerry hit hard at this week's revelation that explosives had disappeared from an outpost in Iraq.

“The missing explosives could very likely be in the hands of terrorists and insurgents, who are actually attacking our forces now 80 times a day on average,” Kerry said at a rally in Sioux City.

“But now today we've learned even more. What we're seeing is a White House that is dodging and bobbing and weaving in their usual efforts to avoid responsibility, just as they've done every step of the way in our involvement in Iraq.”

Kerry said Vice President Dick Cheney “is becoming the chief minister of disinformation” while the president remains silent on the matter.

Bush did bring up the matter a few minutes later, in a speech in Litzitz, Pa.

“Now the senator is making wild charges about missing explosives when his top foreign policy adviser admits, quote, ‘We do not know the facts,’” Bush said.

“Think about that — the senator's denigrating the action of our troops and commanders in the field without knowing the facts. Unfortunately, that's part of a pat-

Kerry says opponent dodging key issue; president says Kerry's charges ‘wild’

tern of saying almost anything to get elected.”

Bush was referring to remarks made by Kerry adviser Richard Holbrooke on Tuesday in an interview with Fox News. Hol-

brooke said, “The U.N. inspectors had told the American military this was a major depot.” He added: “I don't know what happened. I do know one thing — in most administrations, the buck stops in the Oval Office.”

Kerry also appealed to middle class voters in the election homestretch Wednesday, saying Bush had sold them out to help the wealthy and now wanted “four more years so that he can keep up the bad work.”

Bush, meanwhile, put together a campaign endgame that included persistent appeals to win over previously Democratic voters and a rarely used weapon in this bruising campaign — a positive commercial.

Rockers Bruce Springsteen and Jon Bon Jovi were rejoining the Kerry campaign, minstrels in his fast-moving galaxy. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was bringing his star power — and moderate GOP reputation — to Bush's side later in the week.

The president turned to the iconoclastic Democratic Sen. Zell Miller of Georgia to accompany him Wednesday to Pennsylva-

nia and Ohio events, in keeping with his late-breaking appeals to Democrats who aren't sold on their own party's nominee.

Bush, in Pennsylvania, said, “I want to remind the American people that if Sena-

tor Kerry had his way Saddam Hussein would still be in power, he would control all those weapons and explosives” and could have shared them with America's terrorist enemies.

“For a political candidate to jump to conclusions without knowing the facts is not a person you want as your commander in chief,” Bush said.

Kerry was focusing on economic troubles in the Sioux City speech Wednesday before stopping in Minnesota and back in Iowa, at a Cedar Rapids event. Aides said that speech and one Friday that will blend his campaign's economic and foreign policy proposals as his “closing arguments” for change. The speeches were added to his schedule after aides had said earlier that a speech Tuesday on homeland security would be his last of the campaign.

After ripping Kerry for weeks as an equivocator, Bush planned to close the contest with a 60-second commercial meant to show him as sincere, trustworthy and compassionate in dangerous times.

The ads show an emotional president telling the Republican National Convention about meeting the children and parents of

slain U.S. soldiers, as well as wounded servicemen and women.

“These four years have brought moments I could not foresee and will not forget,” Bush says. “I've learned firsthand that ordering Americans into battle is the hardest decision, even when it is right.” The commercial will be seen by a limited audience, given that it will run only on a couple national cable news networks.

Still, neither campaign was giving up; beat, nor were their supporters.

Hard-hitting leaflets lined mailboxes in a dozen or so hotly contested states. A glossy mailing by the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee showed burning roadside wreckage in Iraq, with U.S. soldiers looking on, and the headline “Wrong Choices ... Less Secure.”

A Republican National Committee mailing showed pictures of Jane Fonda and Michael Moore, two anti-war liberals supporting Kerry, and the headline, “John Kerry's heart and soul of America?”

Kerry's latest ad accuses the Bush administration of failing to secure the explosives that disappeared from a military installation south of Baghdad around the time U.S. forces were toppling Saddam Hussein's government.

New state polls suggested the race was deadlocked in Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania, the three most important battlegrounds in the race for 270 Electoral College votes.

With the possibility of another inconclusive election night looming, lawyers were already deep in courtroom entanglements in a variety of states over problems either anticipated or already experienced in states with heavy early voting.

In one example, a federal judge in Miami ruled against Democrats in saying Florida election officials will not be required to process incomplete voter registration forms.

Families of slain soldiers harden political views

BY ANDREW KRAMER

The Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. — In the year and a half since her son died in Iraq, Arlene Walters has transformed her living room into a shrine.

Paintings of Sgt. Donald Walters in uniform adorn the walls. His Purple Heart, Silver Star and POW medals sit in a glass case. A banner with a single gold star — signifying the loss of a family member in a war — hangs in the window.

After her son's death, Walters became an outspoken critic of what she considered President Bush's poor planning for the war. But it's not enough to sway her view.

“Don was willing to do this, he thought it had to be done, so I had to support him,” said Walters, 67, who voted for Bush in 2000 and plans to do so again. “I have to support it because he gave his life for it.”

As casualties continue to mount in Iraq, some who lost family members in the war have softened their political allegiance from President Bush to Democrat John Kerry. One former Bush supporter from Birming-

ham, Ala., has actively campaigned against the president at anti-war rallies since her son's death.

But many more — Republicans and Democrats alike — say the experience simply reinforced their views.

“I can't say how angry we are with the administration and how these kids have been used and abused and sacrificed for nothing,” said Annette Pritchard, an Oregon City Democrat who opposed the war before and after the death of her nephew, Pfc. William Ramirez.

“This war's being fought by poor kids. That's who's over there.”

Lorraine and Michael Earley have attracted attention in Wilmington, Ohio, with their yard display that includes a photo of their dead son, Army Sgt. Steven D. Conover, and a sign that reads: “Flush the Johns on Nov. 2,” referring to Kerry and his running mate, John Edwards.

The Earleys placed a toilet

near the sign. “Bush didn't kill my son,” said Lorraine Earley, 44, who voted for Bush in 2000. “My son was a choice. Yeah, my son was killed.

He was killed so that we would be safe.”

In interviews with The Associated Press, many who lost family members in Iraq said they disapprove of Bush's handling of the war, like more than half of likely voters in a recent AP poll. But several said they would vote for Bush nonetheless.

Others want to do what they can to keep more soldiers from dying — and they think that means electing Kerry. For the first time, lifelong Democrat Cheryl Fey of Eden Prairie, Minn., is knocking on doors for her party.

“This is the first time I've felt that I needed to,” said Fey, whose 22-year-old son, Marine Pfc. Tyler R. Fey, was killed in Iraq. “We still have troops over there that shouldn't be there and something needs to be done.”

Kerry's military service appeals to retired Marine Kenneth Conde of Orlando, Fla., who feels a willingness to die for the country should be “a requirement of the presidency.” Conde's son, Marine Sgt. Kenneth Conde Jr., 23, died in July.

“It's kind of hard to vote for Bush right now after the loss of my son,” the 43-year-old said.

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“The decisions that he made cost the lives of a lot of young men and women, and for that I hold him accountable.”

Associated Press writers Mitch Stacy in Orlando, Fla.; Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Ala.; John Nolan in Cincinnati; Jo Millica in Cleveland; Allison Schlesinger in Philadelphia; Elizabeth Dunbar in Minneapolis; and Halima Jackson, Miss., contributed to this report.

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NTSB: Pilot caused '01 crash of Flight 587

BY LESLIE MILLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The National Transportation Safety Board ruling that a pilot's mistake caused the crash of American Airlines Flight 587 on Nov. 12, 2001, doesn't settle the controversy over who was to blame for the crash.

The Airbus A300-600 plunged into a New York City neighborhood after losing its tail, killing all 260 people aboard and five on the ground.

The safety board ruled that the co-pilot improperly moved the rudder back and forth to try to

steady the plane, which put more pressure on the tail than it could bear. The NTSB also ruled that the plane's overly sensitive rudder controls contributed to the accident, as well as the airline's inadequate pilot training.

The decision prompted angry reaction from Airbus Industrie, which manufactured the plane, and American Airlines, which trained the co-pilot. Each said the other shouldered more blame.

Both companies are being sued by families of the victims. The NTSB's reports can't be admitted into legal proceedings, but those familiar with air crash litigation say that lawyers use them as

guides to develop their cases.

The safety board recommended that the Federal Aviation Administration set new standards to make sure pilots can handle planes safely when the aircraft veer to the side. The FAA should also study whether the A300-600 can be redesigned to limit the danger of overusing the rudder, the board said. That recommendation also applied to the Airbus A310, which U.S. passenger airlines do not use.

Airbus spokesman Clay McConnell said the company will work with the FAA to study whether it's possible to redesign the rudder control system.

The NTSB also recommended that the FAA standardize and upgrade the way pilots are trained to recover from aircraft upsets.

NTSB Vice Chairman Mark Rosenker, who successfully urged the board to place the Airbus' rudder design ahead of American's training as a probable cause, said the Airbus A300-600 is an "extremely safe" aircraft.

Board member Debbie Hersman said other American pilots received the same training without making the same mistake that co-pilot Sten Molin did on Flight 587.

The crash occurred just after the jet bound for the Dominican

Republic took off from John F. Kennedy International Airport. The plane ran into turbulence caused by a Boeing 747 that had taken off just ahead.

According to investigators, Molin tried to steady the aircraft using pedals that control the rudder, a large flap on a plane's tail. When his initial movement failed to work, Molin tried repeatedly, causing the tail to break off with seconds.

The NTSB staff concluded Molin's use of the rudder was "unnecessary and aggressive."

NTSB investigator David Ivey said the only time pilots should use the rudder is when they're landing or taking off in a crosswind, which was not the case for Flight 587.

"The rest of the time, your feet should be on the floor," he said.

American is the only U.S. commercial passenger airline that uses the A300-600, with 34 in service. FedEx and UPS also use that model aircraft. Airbus claimed the airline failed to train its pilots properly to fly the jet, while American Airlines accused Airbus of failing to disclose problems with the rudder system.

The NTSB was divided 3-2 on which factor was the larger contributor to the accident.

American Airlines issued an angry statement after the decision, saying the pilot could not have caused the accident because he did not know about the rudder's sensitivity.

"How is safety served, how is future aviation safety enhanced, by blaming the pilot who had no way of knowing the design sensitivities of that airplane because Airbus, who did know, never told safety investigators, never told operators and never told pilots?" the statement said.

Airbus, in a statement, said it was surprised by the safety board's decision because the sensitive rudder had nothing to do with an accident caused by the co-pilot stomping on the rudder pedals. Airbus' McConnell said American's training system for pilots failed to account for information it provided about the rudder system.

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Texas execution

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — A man convicted in a 1992 murder case in which the troubled Houston police crime lab allegedly mislabeled evidence was executed Tuesday evening despite last-minute legal battles and pleas from relatives of the murder victim that his life be spared.

U.S. District Judge Nancy Atlas had blocked Dominique Green's execution after his attorneys argued that boxes of improperly stored and catalogued evidence, kept by the crime lab and recently discovered, could contain information relevant to the case.

The state attorney general's office objected to the reprieve, which was then lifted by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

From The Associated Press



Paul Bauer gazes at flood damage to her bedroom Tuesday in San Francisco. Bauer awoke to the sound of running water, "like from a creek," and realized her bed was floating in her bedroom. California's second powerful storm of the season swept across much of the state Tuesday, flooding homes and cutting power.

Freak storm brings lots of snow, flooding to California

BY TOM VERDIN
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A powerful Alaskan storm descended on California, flooding homes, cutting power to thousands and dumping record-setting snow in the Sierra Nevada.

A weather station in the central Sierra run by the University of California-Berkeley reported Tuesday that 48 inches of snow had fallen at this mountain, the most for October since record-keeping began at the site in 1945. The previous record was 36 inches in October 2000.

Many Sierra ski resorts were reporting their earliest openings in years.

"It's snowing like a son of a gun," said Norm Saylor, owner of Donner Ski Ranch at 7,200-foot Donner Summit.

A surprise storm last week already had dumped up to 3 feet of snow.

The storm was expected to linger through Thursday, dropping several inches of rain across the state and 2 feet of snow — or more — in the mountains. The weather service was calling for intense rain in Southern California, prompting flash flood warnings and fears of mudslides in mountain areas scarred by wildfires over the past year.

Winds up to 65 mph were forecast for parts of Southern California, with areas above 5,000 feet expected to receive up to 5 inches of rain and snow.

A man was rescued after being swept up in the current of the rain-swollen San Gabriel River, said Inspector John Mancha of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Two streets in the San Bernardino Mountains, about 60 miles east of Los Angeles, were under voluntary evacuation orders due to unstable soil and the possibility of flash floods.

Rising water also flooded a mobile home park in the Santa Clarita area of Los Angeles County.

In San Francisco, rain overwhelmed the city's storm drains early Tuesday.

"I turned the light on and could see water flooding from the walk-in closet out the bedroom door," said homeowner Paula Bauer.

Swirling with mud, leaves and refuse from the street, the water rose to a foot-and-a-half deep before finally receding.

"Now it's just icky. ... There's mud everywhere," said Bauer, a 48-year-old attorney.

"The shower's just disgusting.

This was filthy water, and it's just black."

The storm also flooded freeways throughout the San Francisco Bay area and contributed to a clogged morning commute that included a toppled big rig on Interstate 880 in San Leandro.

Power was cut to about 13,600 Pacific Gas & Electric Co. customers. Power was restored to all but 2,800 customers by late Tuesday afternoon, PG&E spokesman Paul Moreno said.

Sister aids death penalty

BY MATTHEW BARAKAT
The Associated Press

SPOTSVILIA, Va. — Teenage sniper Lee Boyd Malvo avoided the death penalty and was sentenced to life in prison without parole under a plea deal for one of 10 slayings that terrorized the Washington area in October 2002.

Malvo, 19, could still face a death penalty prosecution for other slayings.

He was sentenced Tuesday for the Oct. 11, 2002, killing of businessman Kenneth Bridges. He also received a life sentence for the shooting of Caroline Seawell on Oct. 4, 2002. She recovered from her wounds.

Malvo already is serving a life sentence for another one of the killings, and dropped his appeals of that conviction in connection with Tuesday's plea bargain.

Malvo's guilty plea took the form of an Alford plea, in which Malvo did not admit factual guilt but acknowledged the government has sufficient evidence to convict him. He cannot appeal the sentence.

Malvo declined to make a statement before he was sentenced. Spotsylvania Commonwealth's Attorney William Neely said the victims' families supported the plea bargain.

"He's spending the rest of his life in a maximum security prison where he'll be locked down 23 hours a day, seven days a week for the rest of his life," Neely said.

Malvo was convicted last year and sentenced to life in prison for the Oct. 14, 2002, murder of FBI analyst Linda Franklin, one of the sniper killings over



Malvo

a three-week span in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. His accomplice, John Allen Muhammad, is on Virginia's death row for one of the slayings.

Neely said after Tuesday's hearing that Malvo appeared to be heavily influenced by Muhammad. When Malvo was tried last year, his lawyers put on an insanity defense, claiming Muhammad had brainwashed Malvo into a killing machine.

Malvo could face the death penalty in Prince William County, as well as in Alabama and Louisiana, where he and Muhammad are charged with other murders.

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Jay-Z in talks to head label

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Jay-Z is in final negotiations to become president of Universal Music Group's Island Def Jam label, a source familiar with the negotiations said Tuesday.

Discussions with the superstar rapper, whose real name is Shawn Carter, have been going on for weeks. Barring any last-minute snags, a deal should be finalized within 10 days, according to the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.



Jay-Z

Since his first album in 1996, Jay-Z has achieved a string of radio hits, platinum albums and critical respect. After cranking out an album every year, Jay-Z released "The Black Album" in 2003 and declared he was retiring from recording. He still remains a major concert draw and is currently touring with R&B superstar R. Kelly.

As Island Def Jam president, the 33-year-old New York native would report to chairman Antonio "L.A." Reid, who joined the label in February.

It's expected the label will seek to sign Jay-Z to a three-year deal, the source said.

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Cassini takes closer look at Saturn's moon

Craft's closest flyby of Titan reveals puzzling surface changes

BY JOHN ANTCAK
The Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — The international Cassini spacecraft began unveiling Saturn's mysterious sidick Titan with a stream of increasingly sharp pictures of the surface taken during a flyby within 745 miles of the hazy moon.

Distinct dark and bright surface areas were apparent in pictures arriving at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory late Tuesday.

Scientists were thrilled, but admitted they could only speculate about what they were seeing.

"What we're looking at is the surface of Titan and that's pretty cool because it's never been done before [at such resolution]," said imaging scientist Carolyn

Porco. Cassini's previous Titan flyby was at a distance of some 200,000 miles.

Scientists hoped the pictures and instrument data would show whether the hazy hydrocarbon skies of Titan have been concealing oceans or lakes of methane and ethane, which theories say could rain out of its skies.

Mission officials also hoped instruments would reveal new details of its atmospheric density, which would be useful when Cassini launches the European Space Agency's Huygens probe for a descent to Titan's surface in January.

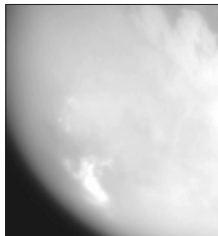
Pictures were to be followed by radar data, which can be processed to show highly detailed surface images resembling black-and-white photographs. Radar imaging findings were expected to be released Wednesday.

Initial fuzzy pictures were from thousands of miles away, but the images improved as Cassini hurtled closer and closer to Titan, the only moon in the solar system known to have an atmosphere.

Titan, however, seemed to be only more puzzling. Scientists peering at newly arrived images could not say, for example, whether there was liquid on the surface or whether some of the bright areas were methane clouds in the atmosphere.

Unlike many other bodies in the solar system, Titan did not show any initial evidence of clearly circular features that might be impact craters, such as those that can be easily seen on Earth's moon, Porco said.

"It could be that if there were impact structures they might have been buried in the material that is falling out of the atmosphere and coating the surface," she said.



This image taken on Tuesday from 745 miles away by the craft Cassini is one of the closest ever of Saturn's moon Titan.

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IN THE WORLD

Sharon holds ground after withdrawal vote

Some lawmakers still calling for pullout to be put to referendum of Israel citizens

BY RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he will stand firm against rebels in his Likud Party who threatened to resign after parliament approved his Gaza withdrawal plan.

Four Cabinet ministers, led by Sharon's top rival, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said they would step down if the prime minister doesn't commit to a referendum on the Gaza plan.

The turmoil raised new doubts about his ability to go ahead with the planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank next summer, as pledged.

The resignations of senior Likud ministers could lead to elections in coming months and delay implementation of a withdrawal. Alternatively, Sharon could try to reshuffle his coalition and bring in the moderate Labor Party.

Sharon said he would not be swayed by the threats. "I will never give in to pressures and threats, and I won't accept any ultimatums," he told the Haaretz daily. "My position on the referendum is unchanged. I am opposed to it because it will lead to terrible tensions and a rift in the public."

Sharon suggested he would try to avoid early elections, telling the Yediot Ahronot daily that "I can promise you that I will have a coalition that will continue to run this country."

In Tuesday's historic vote, parliament for the first

time approved the dismantling of Jewish settlements in lands Israel occupied in the 1967 Mideast war and which are claimed by the Palestinians for a state.

Sharon won by a comfortable margin, with 67 legislators in favor, 45 against and seven abstaining. However, nearly half the Likud legislators and two religious parties voted against him, underscoring Sharon's break with his former constituency.

After the vote, Sharon fired Uzi Landau, a Cabinet minister who voted against him.

Proponents of the referendum say a nationwide vote is needed to give the plan legitimacy, noting that Sharon rejected a similar proposal by his Labor Party opponent during the 2003 election campaign. Sharon announced the plan early this year, suddenly reversing decades of support for building up Jewish settlements.

The referendum initiative got a boost when the National Religious Party, a key part of Sharon's coalition, announced just before the vote that it will quit within two weeks unless the parliament vote is accompanied by a pledge to hold a such a vote.

Four Likud ministers — Netanyahu, Limor Livnat, Yisrael Katz and Danny Naveh — voted for the plan and then immediately demanded Sharon accept the NR's ultimatum or they would resign.

Sharon would probably win a referendum, with opinion polls showing well over half of Israelis support the withdrawal. But Sharon and his new supporters say there's no time — or need — to hold one.

"I will never give in to pressures and threats, and I won't accept any ultimatums. My position on the referendum is unchanged. I am opposed to it because it will lead to terrible tensions and a rift in the public."

Ariel Sharon
Israeli prime minister



Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, center, pauses in the Knesset, Israel's parliament, after his government's proposed Gaza disengagement plan was approved in a vote in Jerusalem on Tuesday.



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Iran refuses to stop uranium enrichment

BY SUSANNA LOOF

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Iran again ruled out a total suspension of uranium enrichment Wednesday as a second round of talks with European negotiators ended without an agreement on incentives aimed at getting the Tehran regime to stop.

"Total suspension will not be accepted under any circumstances," said Sirus Naseri, a member of the Iranian delegation that met in Vienna with envoys from Britain, France and Germany.

But Naseri said Iran was still trying to work out a compromise with the Europeans, who have been working to persuade Iran to agree to suspend enrichment and avoid possible U.N. sanctions.

The European diplomats involved in Wednesday's talks declined to comment.

Britain, France and Germany have offered Iran a trade deal and peaceful nuclear technology — including a light-water research reactor — in return for assurances that the country will stop uranium enrichment, which can produce fuel for both nuclear energy and atomic weaponry.

Diplomats called the EU package a "last chance" offer to Iran ahead of a key Nov. 25 meeting of

the International Atomic Energy Agency, which could result in Tehran's defiance being reported to the U.N. Security Council, which has the authority to impose punishing sanctions.

The Vienna-based IAEA was not directly involved in the offer, but agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei has said he welcomes any attempt to negotiate an end to the standoff. Envoys from the three European nations met privately with the Iranian delegation at the French mission to international organizations in Vienna.

Iran insists its nuclear activities are peaceful and geared solely toward generating electricity. The United States, pointing to Iran's vast oil reserves, contends it is running a covert nuclear weapons program.

Heightening the U.S. concerns, Iran has resumed testing, assembling and making centrifuges used to enrich uranium.

Iran repeatedly has refused to abandon uranium enrichment, a key demand of the international community. Although the European envoys who presented the offer to the Iranians in Vienna last week made it clear that they would not budge on the enrichment issue, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Hasan Rowhani, suggested there was some flexibility in the talks.



Customers smoke cigarettes as they have a drink at Le Griffon brasserie in Paris on Tuesday. City Hall is seeking to coax people into cutting back on smoking, with voluntary smoke-free establishments. Le Griffon's owner, Janine Boussac, seen behind the bar, will not participate for business reasons, saying, "We would lose 30 percent of our clientele."

Effort aims to nudge Parisian restaurants into non-smoking era

BY KATE BRUMBACK
The Associated Press

PARIS — Convincing Parisians to cut back on smoking in the city's ubiquitous cafés and restaurants is no easy task — so City Hall is trying a gentler approach to try to clear the air.

Faced with broad disobedience of a 12-year-old law designed to restrict smoking in public places, the city on Tuesday began giving away window stickers declaring, "Here it's 100 percent smoke free."

The program, co-sponsored by a restaurateurs' association, is designed to reach out to nonsmokers who are often forced to do battle with second-hand smoke in bistros and brasseries.

But the initiative is only voluntary, and so only about a dozen restaurants have asked for the bright blue sticker.

"The city of Paris has no intention to decree new bans," Alain Lloest, deputy mayor in charge of health, told reporters. "There is no obligation."

Restaurateurs or café owners who agree to put up the sticker will have to go a step further: putting up signs inside showing their nonsmoking credentials and keeping ashtrays off the tables.

Paris still has a long way to go

to reach the anti-smoking proportions of New York, which has banned smoking in public places, or Dublin, where lighting up at work — including pubs — is illegal.

A 1992 French law banned smoking in closed public places, but allowed for the creation of smoking areas. It's a rule rarely enforced in the eateries and watering holes of Paris.

City officials say the high cost of ventilation equipment and the difficulty of providing separate smoking areas in small restaurants make applying the law unpleasant for business owners in a country where about one-third of the population smokes.

"We would lose 30 percent of our clientele," said Janine Boussac, owner of Le Griffon brasserie, near the Champs-Élysées.

"People come in to relax with a cigarette and a coffee — our biggest selling item."

Restaurateurs' association Synhorcat says only about 50 Paris restaurants currently forbid smoking, but its president expressed hope others would come around.

"Though certain customers may stop coming to an establishment because it's 100 percent smoke free, others will come precisely because it is," Didier Chenet said.

U.N. war crimes fugitive sneaks novel into market

BY DUSAN STOJANOVIC
The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — A novel by Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic, the top U.N. war crimes fugitive, was a best seller at Belgrade's international book fair, a publisher and former associate said Tuesday.

"Miraculous Chronicles of the Night" was completed by Karadzic in August and has "reached the publisher through secret channels," said former Bosnian Serb Information Minister Miroslav Tiholj.

All 1,000 copies of the Karadzic novel — a somewhat autobiographical tale set in Sarajevo in the 1980s — were sold out during the fair, which ends Tuesday, Tiholj said. The price per copy was \$17.20 — a hefty sum in Serbia where average monthly salaries amount to no more than \$255.

Tiholj said he printed only 1,000 copies of Karadzic's latest effort because he believed critics who had dismissed it as "trash." Another 200 copies were added for sale Tuesday because of the interest.

The story tells of events in a Sarajevo prison on the eve of the 1992-95 Bosnian war — about the time when Karadzic spent time in jail on charges that he embezzled funds from a company he worked for.

Karadzic led the Bosnian Serbs during the war, and was indicted in 1995 by the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, for genocide and

crimes against humanity.

The Serbia office of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights has criticized the republic's conservative authorities for allowing the promotion of Karadzic's book instead of making moves to arrest war crimes suspects and hand them over to the U.N. tribunal.

Karadzic, believed to be hiding somewhere in the Serb-controlled half of Bosnia, has dodged several attempts by NATO-led peacekeepers to capture him despite a U.S.-sponsored \$5 million reward for information leading to his arrest.

While in hiding, Karadzic has written at least two other books, including a volume of poetry for children called "There Are Miracles, There Are No Miracles." Both failed to impress literary critics.

But the new book might be a different story. "I will purchase six copies," said a Bosnian Serb who identified himself only as Branko, as he fought his way through a crowd lining a bookstore featuring Karadzic's book.

"He is our hero. This book is a proof that he is safe and sound and in good spirits, thank God," Branko said, adding that he would give his additional copies to friends in the Serb-controlled half of Bosnia.

Tiholj said the book's royalties belong to Karadzic's wife, Ljiljana Zelen-Karadzic, who lives in the former Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale, near Sarajevo. Earlier this month, the European Union ordered the freezing of Karadzic's assets and property.



Luka Karadzic, a brother of Bosnian wartime leader and top U.N. war crimes fugitive Radovan Karadzic, holds Radovan's new book, titled "Miraculous Chronicles of the Night," during a promotion last week in Belgrade.

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YOMIURI SHIMBUN, ATSUSHI TAKETAJI/AP

Yuta Minagawa, 2, center, is carried out of rubble by a rescuer in Nagaoaka, Japan, on Wednesday, after surviving four days buried in a landslide from the powerful quake in Japan over the weekend.

Boy rescued four days after Japan quake, but mother dies

BY KOJI SASAHARA
The Associated Press

NAGAOKA, Japan — In a rescue shown on live TV, a 2-year-old boy was pulled to safety Wednesday after surviving for four days buried in a landslide from the powerful quake that ravaged northern Japan over the weekend.

Rescuers also pulled Yuta Minagawa's mother, Takako Minagawa, 39, from the wreckage, but doctors later announced she had died. A daughter, 3-year-old Mayu, was still buried and her condition was uncertain.

The family's white van was swept away in a wave of boulders and earth that pulverized the hillside road they were on when a 6.8-magnitude quake ripped across rural Niigata prefecture on Saturday, killing at least 31 people.

The van was spotted under the landslide on Tuesday. Firefighters heard Takako Minagawa's voice in response to their calls and dug through the rocks and rubble Wednesday.

But by the time they reached the van, rescue work-

ers could not find a pulse in Minagawa, officials said. She was pulled from the wreck, strapped to a stretcher and flown to a hospital in a helicopter. She was already near death upon arrival, said Nagaoaka Red Cross Hospital spokesman Tadataka Tsurumaki. Live television footage showed Yuta being pulled from the wreckage — covered in mud after four days under the landslide but still conscious. He was flown by helicopter to a hospital, said Keiko Kondo, a spokeswoman for the Tokyo Fire Department.

Homeless people in evacuation centers threw themselves to the floor and screamed in horror as the tremor rumbled through the rural area of Niigata prefecture. A 4.2-magnitude aftershock hit about 25 minutes later. More than 100,000 people are in public shelters.

Five people were injured in the Wednesday morning quake, but it was unclear if any were in serious condition, and some buildings were damaged.

The train station in Nagaoaka, the largest city in the quake zone, was badly shaken and in danger of collapse, said an official at East Japan Railway Co.'s Niigata office. Public broadcaster NHK also reported that water and gas lines had broken in the area.

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American breaks record for Zeppelins

The Associated Press

BERLIN — American adventurer Steve Fossett broke the speed record for airships in a flight Wednesday with a German company's new-look Zeppelin, the manufacturer said.

Fossett, together with co-pilot Hans-Paul Stroehle, took off early Wednesday morning from the airport in the southern city of Friedrichshafen, Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik said.

The pair averaged 69.47 miles per hour over a 2,188-yard stretch — half with the wind behind them and half in the other direction, the company said.

The existing record of 57.67 miles per hour was set in 2000 by two Britons, James Dexter and Michael Kendrick.

Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik said Fossett's performance, monitored by the German Balloon Sport Federation, has yet to become an official record. The German group will pass details to the United States' National Aeronautics Association before it is submitted to the International Aeronautic Federation for formal recognition.

Fossett made global headlines when he became the first man to fly a hot air balloon solo around the world, landing in Australia on July 4, 2002.

Zeppelin spokesman Dietmar Blasius said the 60-year-old acquired a license to fly the airship in recent months at its Friedrichshafen headquarters, with Stroehle as his instructor.

The company started building its 247-foot dirigibles in 1996. The craft, named Zeppelin NT for "New Technology," is filled with helium rather than the intensely flammable hydrogen that fueled the earlier generation of airships.

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No tiger charges

FL WEST PALM BEACH — Prosecutors have decided not to charge a former Tarzan actor in the escape of a 600-pound tiger last July.

A state wildlife officer shot and killed the tiger July 13 after the big cat allegedly lunged at him following a 26-hour hunt for his capture.

Investigators had filed a probable cause affidavit charging Steve Speik with allowing captive wildlife to escape and causing a threat to the public.

But prosecutors filed a court document saying they were unable to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Speik negligently allowed the tiger to escape, The Miami Herald reported.

The state also couldn't disprove Speik's allegation that someone else let the tiger out of the compound, Palm Beach County Assistant State Attorney Paul Zacks wrote in the document.

Speik, who played Tarzan in B-movies decades ago, lives with five other big cats in a compound about 10 miles west of West Palm Beach.

Subscribe to lotto

NH CONCORD — State residents soon won't have to go to the store to buy their lottery tickets. Starting Nov. 1, New Hampshire Powerball players will be able to buy subscriptions to the game. Lottery Director Rick Wilf says New Hampshire is the first state to offer the season tickets for Powerball. The subscriptions are available for 26, 52, or 104 drawings.

Question added to bar

WA RICHLAND — The state Bar Association governing body voted to add a question on American Indian law to the state bar exam. Washington is the second state, after New Mexico, to require lawyers to understand tribal law. The first bar exam with the new question will be given in the summer of 2007.

What's in a name?

TX LUBBOCK — GOP candidate Randy Neugebauer is getting the word out on how to pronounce his name. Apparently, though, the National Republican Congressional Committee hasn't listened.

Neugebauer has been airing ads that poke fun at people's struggle to pronounce his surname. The ads, set in an old-fashioned barber shop in a small Texas town, have several people bandying about how to say "Neugebauer." (The correct pronunciation is NAW'-guh-bow-ur).

By the end of the ad, people learn how to say it correctly.

But a recorded telephone message in calls to District 19 constituents last weekend by the NRCC repeatedly mispronounced the Lubbock candidate's name. The man's voice pronounced it (NOD'-guh-bow-ur).

Chris Paulitz, a spokesman for the NRCC, said the mispronunciation has been corrected. He declined to say how many calls with the mispronunciation were made and how much the ad buy cost.

"We never discuss our October strategy," Paulitz said.

Neugebauer, who has served in



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

the House since June 2003, faces longtime U.S. Rep. Charlie Stenholm, D-Arlene, who has represented District 17 since 1979.

Burial cave investigated

HI HONOLULU — Federal and state investigators have examined a Big Island burial cave to determine if Hawaiian artifacts are missing and for sale on the black market.

Members of Native Hawaiian groups who are claimants to the cave and their private investigators were present when the Kupa-cave in the Big Island's Kohala area was opened on Friday.

Donald Wong, chief investigator for the attorney general's office, said he was not at liberty to say what was found. But he said investigators found what they expected.

The state and U.S. Department of Interior are conducting separate investigations into how valuable artifacts from the cave and from several other collections have allegedly shown up for sale on the antiques black market within the last year.

The federal government is the lead agency in the investigation, Wong said, but the state attorney general may become involved, depending on what is found.

The federal investigators initiated their probe last spring. The state followed after a picture of the unsealed cave appeared in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin in August. The Native Hawaiian group Hui Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawaii, which buried items in the cave in November 2003, pushed the state to seal the entrance and

investigate.

Not for sale

KY CHATTANOOGA — A man who gave up one of his kidneys in response to a commercial Web site solicitation said he would be willing to take a lie detector test to show he did not sell the organ, despite claims to the contrary.

In an Oct. 20 operation in Colorado, Rob Smitty, 32, gave a kidney to a man who had needed a transplant since 1999 due to kidney disease.

The recipient, Bob Hickey, met Smitty through MatchingDonors.com, a Web site created to match donors and recipients for a fee. Hickey paid the Web site \$295 a month for three months to post his plea. Both men have said there was no payment for the kidney, which would be a violation of federal law. There are no laws against soliciting an organ.

Drive-through flu shots

AR MAGNOLIA — Hundreds of Medicare patients rolled down their windows and rolled up their sleeves to get a flu shot while sitting in their cars at a drive-through clinic.

Magnolia Hospital inoculated more than 370 people in about 90 minutes in the hospital parking lot, and traffic backed up as people showed up early for the limited number of shots.

The first patient arrived five hours before the temporary drive-through clinic opened. More than 100 shots were administered in the first half hour, when the supply ran out, a line of cars still stretched down the street.

"People have been nice, they've been patient, understanding and cooperative," said hospital administrator Kirk Reamey.

Getting tough on DUIs

WY CHEYENNE — The governor's Council on Impaired Driving is recommending tougher penalties for people who have children with them when they drink and drive. The 40-member council was established more than a year ago. It wants tougher penalties if an impaired driver 18 years or older drives with anyone under 16 as a passenger.

MBA program launched

MD COLLEGE PARK — The University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business is starting two MBA programs in China. The school will launch an 18-month executive program in Shanghai in January. Officials plan to start a custom program in Tianjin next month designed for senior managers of Otis Elevators China, one of the country's fastest-growing multinational corporations.

Guards for mayor?

IN LAWRENCE — Some City Council members are questioning whether the city should pay for two officers to protect Mayor Deborah Cantwell. Some council members said they would rather see the mayor's bodyguards patrolling the streets. Cantwell said she needs the security because she has received threats.



In the web A banana spider's web, saturated by a morning dew, is highlighted by the sun in the Apalachicola National Forest in Sopchoppy, Fla.



Making new friends Girl Scouts Kelsey Dennis, 9, (foreground) and Emily Marrs, 8, feed corn kernels to a sheep after going on a hay ride at the DeMoss Pumpkin Farm West of Gilbert, Iowa. The girls belong to two Ames Girl Scouts troops who attended the hay ride.



Rocket launch

Tyler Durand, 8, goes airborne while launching a rocket as part of 1st annual third-grade science fair at McGaughey School in Mount Zion, Ill. Durand's rocket broke the previous school record by traveling 55 feet.



Ribbons to remember

Erin Jones, 7, ties a red ribbon to the fence at Lincoln-McKinley Primary School in Havre, Mont., as Lorraine Verploegen, second-grade teacher at Lincoln-McKinley, helps other students with the task in observance of Red Ribbon week. Supporting a drug-free America, the nationwide program began after DEA Agent Kiki Camarena was murdered in Mexico City in 1985. Red Ribbon week runs Oct. 23-31.



Bet that's gonna' leave a stain!

Conger Elementary School principal, Barbara Headden of Klamath Falls, Or., left, reacts as third-grader Tyler Alvarez dumps peanuts over Headden's head. Students from the school earned the right to turn the principal into an ice cream sundae after they made a profit of \$10,093.23 selling food products in a fund-raiser. The money will be used for new technology for the school and classroom funds.



Ghost pumpkin

White pumpkins are shown on display at Peck's Farm Markets near Spring Green, Wis. For people who are tired of the same old orange pumpkins, local growers now offer pumpkins in colors such as white, red and green.

Baby koala causes stir

SC COLUMBIA — It's about the size of a jellybean, but it is the biggest thing to happen at Riverbanks Zoo in quite some time. It is a baby koala.

"I don't think I can adequately describe how excited everyone here is about this," executive director Satch Krantz said.

Zoo veterinarian Dr. Keith Benson spied the healthy, hairless baby in the pouch of Lottie, one of two female koalas at Riverbanks, on Sept. 17. Before he could get back to his office, e-mails were going out around the world with the news.

Riverbanks' two females, Lottie and Killarney, are gifts from South Carolina's sister-state of Queensland in Australia. Japan's Hirakawa Zoo donated the new baby's father, Mami.

Newborn koalas are less than an inch long and weigh a fraction of an ounce. They spend their first months entirely in their mother's pouch, and don't fully leave the pouch until they are about 1½ years old.

Australia is the koala's only native home and the cute marsupials have become a national symbol. Exportation of the animals is strictly controlled. There are only about 75 in U.S. zoos.

Turnpike talks off

PA HARRISBURG — Negotiations have broken off between the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and its 2,000 unionized workers. No new talks are scheduled. Commission spokesman Carl DeFebo says Teamsters representatives notified turnpike managers they could call a strike without notice. Turnpike officials say the commission could keep the 531-mile highway open if union workers walk off the job.

Judge extols capture

TX DALLAS — A judge threw a party complete with balloons, streamers and a cake to welcome a former fugitive back to her court — and sentence him to life in prison.

"You just made my day when I heard you had finally come home," Criminal Courts Judge Faith Johnson told Billy Wayne Williams, who had been convicted in absentia of aggravated assault after he disappeared a year ago. "We're so excited to see you, we're throwing a party for you."

Williams, 53, was accused of choking his girlfriend until she was unconscious. He failed to appear for his trial last November and was recently captured.

Before he was brought into the courtroom, Johnson directed staff members as they placed balloons and streamers around the courtroom. A colorful cake was decorated with his name.

"It seems like everyone wants to have a party, and it's fun for you people, but not for me," Williams told reporters as he was led away in handcuffs.

Calls to the judge's office and the State Bar Association were not immediately returned Tuesday.

Williams has a criminal record dating back to the 1980s, authorities said. During his year on the run, Williams used disguises, posed as an attorney and used aliases such as "Justin Bur-

roughs" and "Bubba Lee Williams," authorities said.

DA's time is up

CO DENVER — Twelve district attorneys across the state will be out of a job after November because of term limits. Bob Grant, who has served three terms as Adams County DA, says the departures are bound to hurt the justice system. In January, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled district attorneys are subject to a 1994 constitutional amendment on term limits.

Curbing elderly abuse

OR BEAVERTON — Gov. Ted Kulongoski announced recommendations aimed at curbing abuse of the elderly. The recommendations are a response to the more than 10,000 cases of elder abuse tallied by the Department of Human Services in 2003. Health officials suspect thousands more go unreported each year.

The plan includes a registry of individuals who have committed crimes against vulnerable adults.

SmartTag, E-Z merging

VA RICHMOND — Virginia is merging its SmartTag automated toll system with the E-Z Pass system used in many other East Coast states. The two systems become compatible Wednesday, state transportation officials say. SmartTag and E-Z Pass give drivers with prepaid accounts transponders to attach to their cars so a toll can be automatically deducted without stopping.

IKEA to open new store

MI CANTON TOWNSHIP — Swedish furniture giant IKEA announced plans to open a store outside Detroit. The proposed store in Canton Township would be the fourth IKEA in the upper Midwest.

Pending approval, construction could start next spring in time for an opening in summer 2006, the company said.

Group sues over whales

AK ANCHORAGE — Conservationists have sued a federal agency for allegedly failing to protect North Pacific right whales, which were hunted nearly to extinction more than a century ago and remain among the world's most endangered animals.

The suit asks the court to order the National Marine Fisheries Service to protect a "critical" habitat for the North Pacific right whale, saying it is required to do so under the Endangered Species Act.

That habitat most likely would be in Alaska's Bering Sea, where an increasing number of whales have summered since 1996, said Brent Plater, a lawyer for the Center for Biological Diversity.

The animals received international protection in 1931 and have been listed as endangered since 1973. Experts believe there are probably fewer than 100 North Pacific right whales in U.S. waters. Plater said a critical habitat designation would not necessarily mean a halt to fishing.

Stories and photos from wire services



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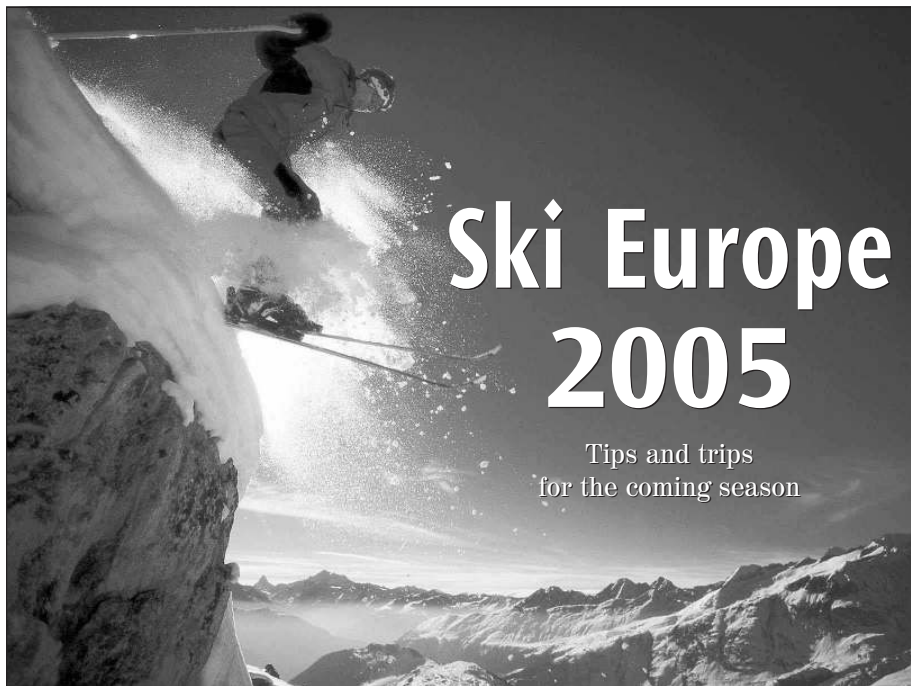
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NEXT WEEK:

- Family resort favorites
- The sunny French Alps
- A little-known Swiss resort

Europe vs. the U.S.

For ski benefits, each continent boasts its own strengths

BY LEAH LARKIN

Special to Stars and Stripes

Where's the best skiing—in Europe or the United States? Both have their fans. It would be tough to say one is better than the other, because they are different and each has advantages and disadvantages.

First-time skiers to Europe, accustomed to polite and civilized lift lines in the States, might be shocked at the aggressive behavior on some European slopes, where pushing and trickery to get ahead in line is the *modus operandi*. Some skiers resort to using their poles to block others from getting past them.

"Be prepared to sharpen your elbows and poke them out," advises Cindy Beger, a ski instructor at Deer Valley, Utah, who lived and skied in Europe for five years. "People will scoot ahead if you are used to a leisurely lift line."

And, don't expect to find tissue dispensers or tool kits for binding adjustment attached to the posts at lift lines in Europe, amenities that are common at many U.S. resorts.

Bob Leatherman, who used to live and ski in Europe and now works in guest services at Aspen, Colo., says Aspen has containers at the top of slopes from which employees dispense water for skiers while providing trail information. Free coffee and cookies are also provided at the bottom of the Aspen gondola, he says.

"People in the U.S. like being pampered more than Europeans, who expect to be more on their own," he says. Aspen even has "ski ambassadors" who will ski with you and show you the mountain at no charge.

But to ski Aspen or Deer Valley, both up-

scale U.S. resorts, costs big bucks. A one-day lift ticket in high season costs \$72 in both resorts. Compare that with the lift ticket prices in some of Europe's top resorts this season: Zermatt, Switzerland, (international ticket including the slopes of Cervinia, Italy), 74 Swiss francs (about \$58); Verbier, Switzerland, 61 Swiss francs; St. Anton, Austria, 39 euros (about \$49.50); and Three Valleys, France, 41 euros.

While European resorts may not be flush with amenities, they offer more freedom. U.S. resorts must carry personal liability insurance, Leatherman says, and as a result restrict where you can go and how fast you can ski.

"In Europe you can just roam. If something happens, it's your fault," he says.

Indeed, on European mountains you are free to ski off-piste, and it's a big attraction for many expert skiers. If you dare to ski off-piste in the United States, you lose your skiing privileges.

"The U.S. is so safety conscious," notes Kathy Pitner, an Aspen ski instructor who lived and skied in Europe for seven years. "Europe is more open. I like the ability to ski wherever you want."

As most European resorts are above the tree line, there's not much skiing through the trees on these slopes. Even where there are trees, skiing is usually limited, Beger says.

"Generally in Europe they don't like you to ski through the trees. It's an environmental thing. Yet it's common in the U.S. That's where the best powder is," she adds.

As to food, scenery and atmosphere, European slopes outrank their American cousins.

SEE COMPARE, PAGE 25



AP

For lift systems and snow conditions, the United States ranks higher than Europe among most skiers. At left are skiers starting the season at Loveland Ski Area in Colorado.

Below, skiers pause for lunch on the Tiefenbach glacier in Sölden, Austria. Skiing in Europe is considered more of a social affair than in the United States. There's always time to relax.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/
Stars and Stripes

The ski shape revolution

BY RICHARD KANE
Tannenheim Ski Club

“You mean there's already snow?” That's the response I usually get when I tell folks that I am heading to Sölden, Austria, over the Columbus Day weekend for an annual three-day ski test for American ski clubs.

Yes, there is snow that early. In fact, there is snow year round on the two Sölden glaciers, the Rettenbach and the Tiefenbach, with about a 1,000-foot vertical drop for runs that go about 2½ miles.

Snow conditions were ideal for testing ski equipment during our weekend. A warm spell had melted the snow on the lower portion of the Rettenbach glacier, leaving it an icy challenge for the edges of the new skis. However, light snows on Saturday and Sunday night, on top of a meter base of snow, gave the upper slopes excellent skiing conditions. In between one could test skis on both wide, groomed runs and ungroomed snow.

This variety meant that we could determine which ski was best for which condition and which handled all the conditions reasonably well. But those are subjective judgments, as individual as each skier.

For the last eight years, a group of ski clubs, most of them American, have gathered on Columbus Day weekend for the ski test hosted by John Schwartz of Scherer Tours and Ed Comiskey of J.R. Sports, a manufacturer's rep for K2 and Jack Wolf-Ski Sports, with support from Salomon Skis. Also participating in this year's ski test, the best yet for the variety of skis, were Atomic, Rossignol, Dynastar, Fisher, and Blizzard. For the snowboarders, J.R. Sports brought up about 10 K2 boards and pairs of snowboard boots from the new season's line.

This year, two clubs came from the Kaiserslautern-Baumholder area, the Tannenheim Ski Club and the West-Pfalz Ski Club. The 415th Base Support Battalion's Outdoor Recreation group added more skiers from K-town. Other German clubs represented Frankfurt, Würzburg, Grafenwohr and Heidelberg. And, a group from the Aviano Ski Club represented Italy. In all, about 150 skiers had a chance to be the first to test the best in this new season's gear.

If you've been away from skiing for a while and remember skis much longer than you are tall, you are in for a shock. Now a ski is considered long if the tip reaches your nose or eyes when held upright. The wider “parabolic” (or hour-glass shaped) ski, along with new materials, allows the skier to make stronger turns at higher speed without what skiers call “chatter.” That's the bouyancy generated by the stress of the ski's speed on



Photo courtesy of Steven M. Callis

A variety of snow and ice conditions on the glaciers of Sölden, Austria, on Columbus Day gave American club and outdoor recreation skiers a chance to judge the abilities of new skis.

the snow.

In addition to the revolution in ski shapes, manufacturers have discovered an amazing fact about the skiers' shapes: Women are not built the same as men; therefore they deserve skis designed especially for them.

Today's skiers also think in terms of a ski's stiffness. A stiff ski is resistant to being flattened or bent and therefore generates a lot of force when doing turns. That's desirable if you are a strong, aggressive skier turning at a high speed, but not so great if you are a beginner or intermediate skier just trying to keep things under control.



Photo courtesy of the Tannenheim Ski Club

Members of the Tannenheim Ski Club host brews after a tough day of testing ski equipment in Sölden, Austria.

on the snow when performing giant-slam turns at good speed on the groomed runs. As an all-mountain ski, they did everything well, although other skis did particular things better.

K2 also had a ski that women found particularly enjoyable, the aptly named Burning Love. They provided “a fast, smooth, ride, and didn't chatter,” according to Carmen McHenry.

Kim Uchimura said that “I really liked the K2 Devils, a stiffer ski for men than Burning Love, which is more flexible.”

Marco Fiorito found the K2 Crossfire Ski his favorite for intermediate skiers. A final K2 ski, the Apache Hellfire, was the apple of Steve Callis' eye. They “were awesome, carving was effortless, and I could turn as sharp or wide as I wanted.”

I also tried the Volk P-60, a fantastic, stiff ski for advanced and expert skiers who want to power through and accelerate in turns on the groomed runs. Also, the Volk is a sturdy ski whose bottoms are more resistant to rocks and ice than the K-2 and Rossignol skis that I tried.

Dan Black found the Volk 5-Star ski a little less stiff than the P-60, calling it “a great carving ski — just huge arcs!”

Ron James found the Atomic all-mountain Metron 11, which were shorter than the K2s he tested, provided “great control and flexibility over all terrains.” The final ski I tested was the Rossignol Bandit B-2, and found it very similar in performance to the K2 SMX, a versatile all-mountain ski, stiff enough to carve runs on the groomed stuff and wide enough to ride on the powder and crud.

Warren Barreto, an intermediate-level skier who is finding he needs a stiffer ski, said the Dynastar S-2 to be his favorite, another ski with “firm, good carving ability.”

Many skiers sang the praises of the Salomon Crossmax, as well as other Salomon skis. Others fell in love with Fisher and Blizzard skis.

This brings me back to the point that before dropping between \$500 to \$1,000 on a new pair of skis, you should test as many as you can to find which one is best for your sex, size and skiing ability. If you are a man, the bigger you are, or the better skier you are, then the stiffer ski you will want. A woman of similar ability probably will want a more flexible ski with a center of gravity adjusted for a woman's body.

Intermediate skiers will want a more flexible ski that allows them to safely improve their skills and which usually are less expensive than the stiffer top-line skis. Novices and beginners probably should rent skis (military outdoor recreation centers have great deals on rentals) or pick up a pair of used skis from a thrift shop or ski club swap before making a large investment in ski equipment.

Richard Kane is vice president of the American Travel Writers Association Base, Landstuhl, Germany.

COMPARE, FROM PAGE 24

“You can always find really good food in Europe,” Pitner says. “Wander into little huts on the mountain and find really good meals.”

In the States, most resorts have cafeterias on the mountain where you get “food in Styrofoam, burgers from under a warmer,” adds Beger. Deer Valley is an exception, she says.

Beger calls the scenery in the Alps “pretty amazing. ... You stand on the top of the Alps and the mountains go on and on. It's beautiful [in the States], too, but different.”

She and Pitner both praised the ambience of European resorts “There's so much charm and atmosphere in the cozy little huts and the little Alpine villages,” says Beger, who skied mostly in Austria and Switzerland and rated St. Anton her favorite European resort.

Pitner, whose favorite European area is Verbi-er, likes the way European resorts are incorporated into towns so you can ski in an out easily. Beger especially likes the “ski circuses” in many European resorts linking the slopes of different areas. Both like the umbrella bars found on many European mountains. These watering holes don't exist in the United States, they say.

But for lift systems and snow conditions, the United States is ahead, according to the ski instructor. Pitner points out that U.S. lifts are mostly chairs and gondolas, while most European resorts have lots of T-bars and poma lifts.

Beger gives the States better marks for snow. In the years she skied in Europe, only once was there enough snow to ski to the valley floor. “There are lots of rocks,” she says.

The slopes are different, and so are the folks who ski them. “Europeans are more social skiers,” says Beger. “They take a couple of runs and then take a break to eat or drink. They go to get the fresh air, sunshine and exercise. Americans go to ski. They are extremists. They go all-out. Europeans are more moderate.”

Beger has a word of advice for those planning to ski Europe: “Never go on a German holiday.” The slopes will be crowded and you're apt to get stuck in a major traffic jam before you reach the ski area.

Pitner, Leatherman and Beger all have fond memories of skiing Europe. While they like skiing in the United States, they love to return to this side of the Atlantic to ski and enjoy the differences — the great food, atmosphere, scenery and freedom.

Leah Karkin, a member of the Society of American Travel Writers, is a journalist and skier living in France.

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Snow forecasts are mostly guesswork

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Stars and Stripes

In the end, the best-laid ski plans rise or fall on the whims of winter weather. The greatest variable to any trip to the slopes is weather, which is judged and viewed differently by skiers. It's a mixed bag: Skiers want snow, but they also want some sun. But too much of either can actually detract from the experience.

Ultimately, though, snow is what it's all about. And this year forecasters are predicting an average amount of snowfall.

"It will be a normal type of

Variables make many scenarios possible

winter, as much as we know now," said Harald Strauss, a veteran climatologist with the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Operational Weather Squadron, based at Sembach Air Base, Germany. Strauss reserves the right to reverse himself. Forecasting this far out — two to five months — is fraught with qualifiers, he said. The variables are many, from autumn temperatures and westerly winds to Mount St. Helens and El Niño.

Next month is crucial, too.

According to Strauss, November is one of those transition months that hint at what lies ahead weatherwise.

"November makes the winter," Strauss said.

Weather forecasting in Europe is different from the trends and tendencies applicable to the United States, Strauss noted. For one, the higher latitudes, which are comparable to Canada, come into play. Factor in the Alps, the Gulf Stream and the unpredictable wind patterns sweeping

across the Atlantic, and long-range forecasts can appear even more like guesswork.

There's an old German saying that basically states that a wet autumn is often followed by a dry winter and vice versa. A few years back, Strauss said, there was a lot of snow between Nov. 9 and Dec. 23. Then nothing.

"That was it for the snow for that winter," he recalled.

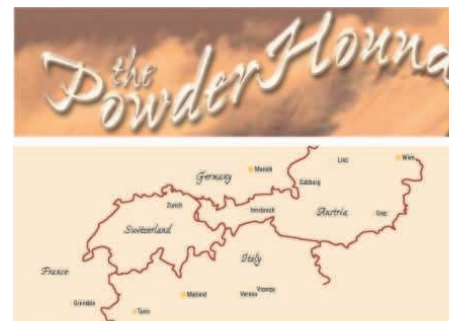
In case a ski trip to the States is on the winter itinerary, the 2005 Farmer's Almanac predicts

a winter of extremes, with drastic swings in conditions and temperatures. In the Northeast, for example, colder than normal conditions are expected for December and February, but January looks as if it will be unseasonably warm, according to the venerable almanac.

Back on this side of the globe, Strauss is advising patience. "Right now," he said, "it's too much of a guess."

One Web site skiers in Europe might find helpful as they plot and plan for ski weekends ahead is: www.snow-forecast.com.

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at koudervik@jagmail.strips.osd.mil.



ALPINE SNOW CONDITIONS

Resort	Snow Base	Last Top Bottom	New Snow	Lifts Open	General Information
Cervinia, IT	6000m	Oct 16	0cm	5/20	Skiing and riding available on the glacier
Engelberg, SW	2000m	Sep 16	0cm	6/25	Three runs open; snow park closed
Hochtitel, AUS	1600m	Oct 16	0cm	1/21	Fulling area available
Les Deux Alpes, FR	1900m	Oct 18	5cm	0/63	Closed due to warm weather and insufficient snow
Les Haudouettes, SW	2600m	Oct 18	0cm	2/06	One run open on the glacier
Kaprun, AUS	1200m	Oct 16	0cm	10/24	Good conditions on the glacier; ten lifts open
Kauferdtal, AUS	5000m	Oct 16	0cm	5/6	Five lifts open on glacier
Molltal Glacier, AUS	4000m	Oct 21	5cm	5/10	Five lifts open
Pitztal, AUS	4000m	Oct 17	0cm	3/7	Good skiing and riding available on the glacier
Saan Fee, SW	8800m	Oct 21	5cm	6/22	Snow park closed 18:30 Oct. due to FIS World Cup
Sölden, AUS	6000m	Oct 19	5cm	2/54	Eight lifts are open and snow conditions are good
Stubai Glacier, AUS	6000m	Sep 17	0cm	14/24	Twelve lifts and eight runs open
Tignes, FR	4000m	Oct 17	0cm	8/14	Eight lifts open; open park; park should be open
Val Senales, IT	4000m	Oct 13	0cm	6/12	Seven runs are open for skiing; all glacier lifts open
Zermatt, SW	1200m	Oct 20	5cm	3/30	Three lifts and five runs open for skiing and riding

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Outdoor Recreation Ski Schedule

Kaiserslautern: Nov 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14-16, 17-19, 20-22, 23-25, 26-28, 29-31
Darmstadt: Nov 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14-16, 17-19, 20-22, 23-25, 26-28, 29-31
Mannheim: Nov 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14-16, 17-19, 20-22, 23-25, 26-28, 29-31
Heidelberg: Nov 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14-16, 17-19, 20-22, 23-25, 26-28, 29-31

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(Ages 15 years and younger)



At left, Erik Figay pumps up his Airboard before hitting the slopes in Serfaus, Austria, while Martin Sauter checks his board for proper pressure. The Airboard Web site recommends that boarders pump their boards when at the lodge since higher altitudes affect the pressure.

"IT FEELS LIKE



Airboard: Slide into a



From left, Erik Figay, Yvonne Fichtler and Martin Sauter are trying to introduce it to the masses. The Airboard was introduced in Switzerland three years ago and is now available around the globe.

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

Imagine "boarding" without the skate, the boogie, the snow, the wake or the kite. It would be easy to get bored with that board.

Now try to imagine it made of air ... Airboarding, the newest winter sport out of Switzerland, has sport enthusiasts flat on their bellies and flying down slopes.

It is high-speed, low-skill fun that is developing a following in Europe and the States. It won a "Best of What's New" award from *Popular Science* magazine in 2003. And its proponents are eager to get more people involved.

The Airboard, introduced three years ago by a Swiss engineer, is inflatable and works like a sled, except with more control. This control comes from a ribbed undercarriage that allows the rider to change direction by shifting top body weight while holding on to side handles.

Airboarders wear hip silver helmets, with matching jump suits, and can easily tote their gear around since it folds up into a square small enough

About Air

- Only official distributor in the U.S. costs about \$270 for the board and pump.
- In Europe, Airboard is sold over the Internet at various distributors.
- The German army uses them for training.
- The Armed Forces are looking into the many activities available.

to fit in a backpack. Junctioned, downhill sliding faster and tricks are possible.

The only real move to apply the brakes. The carriage acts like a brake as it is picked up and perpendicular to the body. Backgrooves stick in the snow to hold the momentum.

The only problem: It's "Many ski areas do not

YOU'RE FLYING."



PHOTOS BY JESSICA INIGO/Stars and Stripes

a new sport

boards

istributors are selling the Airboard. In the States they're classic (adult) size and about \$160 for the children's. Airboards can cost up to 280 euros. Airboards are also sold at www.airboard.com. It costs 17 euros to rent an Airboard from European Outdoor Freaks group called Outdoor Freak distributes, teaches, and sells Airboards. Get more info at www.outdoor-freaks.de. The Recreation Center and Outdoor Recreation offices offer new sport for possible addition to the military sports

— JESSICA INIGO

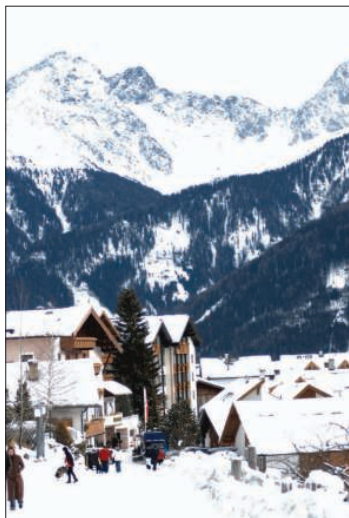
ps are cush- feels much try easy to learn is how ribbed under- ze when the placed perpen- ically, the w, stopping a new sport. t allow the

airboard in the area because they don't think there is full control," said Tom Kaules, who works and distributes Airboards with Outdoor Freaks at the Blaumurgbahn in Bad Tölz, Germany. "They have not been introduced to the board yet and do not know steering is just as easy on the Airboard as with skis and snowboards." Kaules and a group of outdoor enthusiasts are taking the sport to the people, introducing it by way of show-

ing what it could do on the slopes that allow them in. Joe Steiner of Zug, Switzerland, began working on the Airboard 10 years ago, after riding on disappointing inflatable sleds that only broke, according to Kaules. Steiner made the Airboard with the latest technology allowing for maximum speed on the slopes and easy movement on the half-pipe. Kaules recently set a record at the European X Games with the Airboard for going 126.42 kilometers per hour in Austria in February. The Airboard was released to the Swiss public three years ago. Now, it's out in the United States, the rest of Europe and is moving in to the rest of the world. "It will need some years, but I think the Airboard will be just as big as snowboarding is," Kaules said. "The fun factor is very high. It feels like you're flying. And, it's very easy to learn." For more information, log on to www.airboard.com, call Outdoor Freaks in Germany at (+49) (0)89-60-01-98-98, or e-mail e.kaules@outdoor-freaks.de. E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigoj@mail.strips.osd.mil.



Above: Yvonne Fichtler, an Airboard crew member with the Outdoor Freaks adventure group from Bad Tölz, Germany, practices new moves. Left: An Airboarder goes airborne during a demonstration at Serfaus, Austria. Tricks are easy to do in the powder as well as on the halfpipe, which is what makes the sport so fun.



The tiny city of Serfaus, Austria, welcomes airboarders right along with other winter sport enthusiasts. Tom Kaules, of the Outdoor Freaks adventure group from Bad Tölz, Germany, recently broke the world record for speed on the Airboard. He went 126.42 kilometers per hour.



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Above: This standard room at the Edelweiss Lodge costs from \$69 to \$99 per night, depending on rank. At right: Becky Garbey, left, 5-year-old Sarah Pacania and her mother, Emlieh Pacania, all of Bamberg, Germany, relax by the fireplace at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany.



Lodge draws skiers to Garmisch

By CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

If you're just beginning to think about spending some of the winter ski season at the Armed Forces Recreation Center in Garmisch, Germany, you're coming to the party a bit late.

At this point, servicemembers and others hoping to take advantage of discount ski weeks might want to think about spring instead, according to Leigh Plowman, recreation director for AFRC and the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort.

"Christmas is pretty booked, and there are a couple of weeks in February where everybody's got vacation and we're pretty full," Plowman said. "Holidays are tough. There are already people planning ahead."

"But from the end of February through March, there's great skiing and a lot of space available."

Ski season officially starts Thanksgiving weekend, and there are still spaces available in some of the ski and snowboard packages at Garmisch for guests of the new Edelweiss Lodge.

The 330-room hotel holds its official grand opening on Saturday. It had a "soft" opening in September and has been hosting guests and conventioners ever since — between 600 and 800 per night, Plowman said.

The buzz created by its construction and opening has succeeded in luring skiers and snowboarders into reserving rooms there and at AFRC's nearby vacation cabins and Keans Lodge.

"We've got about 2,000 people signed up for our ski weeks," Plowman said.

AFRC's specially priced ski-week packages are four-day and weeklong deals that include instruction, equipment and lift tickets. There are 16 ski weeks this season, starting in mid-December.

Ski-week packages are for



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Youngsters get ready for their ski lesson at the Armed Forces Recreation Center's ski facilities in Garmisch in January 2003.

resort guests, Plowman said, including troops returning to Europe from Iraq and Afghanistan and those who are on rest-and-recuperation leave.

He said eligible persons staying at other hotels in Garmisch can rent equipment and buy discounted passes through AFRC. Persons not staying at the Edelweiss hotel and cabins can purchase ski-week packages only if space is available.

"We give first priority to resort guests; we just have to cater to these people first," Plowman said. "Some people think [smaller hotels in Garmisch] are a great deal, but they're missing out on a lot of things we have to offer our resort guests."

"We've got cool things we do every day for free or at low cost for resort guests that gets them out of the hotel," including local tours and side trips to places like Munich and the Neuschwanstein castle.

Plowman said people should not be dissuaded from going to Garmisch even if they can't get the ski-week package on the days they want.

"We've got a state-of-the-art [equipment] rental facility, probably the biggest in Europe, and we're right on the hill," he said. "It's a good American atmosphere and you're still skiing in Europe."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coon@mail.estripes.osd.mil.

Here are the prices for packages available through the Armed Forces Recreation Center Europe in Garmisch, Germany: Ski Youth is for ages 8-15; Snowboard Youth is 12-15; and Ski Kids is 5-7.

• **Ski and snowboard week** (five ski days): adults \$295; youth \$235; Ski Kids \$225.

• **Four-day ski and snowboard instruction** (in conjunction with Martin Luther King Jr. and Presidents Day holidays): adults \$250; youth \$200; Ski Kids \$190.

• **Two-day holiday specials:** adults \$110; youth \$100; Ski Kids \$90.

• **Lessons** (two hours): group \$25; semi-private \$35; private \$60.

All instruction packages include: Daily instruction, transport-

tation to ski area, lift pass for appropriate slope, equipment and ski clothing, awards banquet.

Advanced booking for instruction is required. Contact the Hausberg Sport Lodge at DSN 440-2591 or civilian (+49) (0) 8821-729400.

Information: Alpine Adventures at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort at civilian (+49) (0) 8821-729400. Web site: www.afrc-europe.com. Enter site, click on "activities," "recreation programs" and "ski/snowboard" for ski-week schedules.

Note that ski-week packages are for guests staying at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort facilities, such as the hotel and cabins. People staying elsewhere will be accommodated as space and equipment are available.

Source: Edelweiss Lodge and Resort

Find a resort to fit your skiing style

BY FELICE HARDY

The Guardian

Where's the best place to ski? Depends on what you're looking for.

It could be a place with gentle slopes and lessons for beginners. Maybe it's a resort with spectacular scenery and long, challenging runs. Or maybe it's a site that is friendly to snowboarders and has great après ski.

And if it is affordable, that makes everything a bit better.

Here's a look at some of Europe's top destinations for both good skiing and good deals.

Best for beginners and lessons: Soldeu-El Tarter, Andorra. The three adjoining villages of Soldeu, El Tarter and Canillo, now form part of the new Grand Valira ski area that incorporates Pas de la Casa, Grau Roig and Encamp. This corner of the 58-lift area provides the best combination of skiing, accommodation, architecture, scenery and atmosphere of any resort in Andorra.

Nearly all the terrain is suitable for beginners. Soldeu ski school has the reputation as one of the best in Europe and is one of the main reasons for Andorra's success.

Best for getting off the intermediate plateau: Courchevel, France. Courchevel 1850 is the international resort with the jet-set image, but Courchevel 1650 is lower down both the mountain and the price scale. Many would argue that this is the real Courchevel, with its year-round population and atmosphere of the farming community it once was.

The Trois Vallées ski area is one of the largest intermediate circuits in the world, with some 375 miles of linked piste. The skiing around Courchevel 1650 is some of the best in the region, remaining beautifully uncrowded at times when the home runs to 1850 resemble an antihill. New Generation (also known as Le Ski School) is an English-speaking alternative to the state-run ESF, or Ecole du Ski Français,



LEAH LARSON/Special to Stars and Stripes

Skiers line up to begin the descent of the famous Vallée Blanche glacier trail at Chamionix, France. Chamionix is among the best locations for expert skiers and powderhounds.

which also has some English-speaking instructors.

Best for experts and powder-hounds: Chamionix, France. The Grands Montets area is enormous and its severe glacial terrain, complete with crevasses and seracs, makes the services of a qualified local guide essential. The town's après-ski is as wild as the ski terrain.

Choose a resort with plenty of long black runs. The perfect advanced ski area has a variety of terrain: moguls and narrow couloirs, as well as some wide and fast descents.

the forefront of modern teaching techniques at all levels and is now a reason for beginners to choose the resort.

If you are in a mixed group that includes non-skiers, choose a resort that is an interesting town with a life outside skiing. It will prevent the non-skier from being left in a deserted village.

Best for snowboarders: Avoriaz, France. The Portes du Soleil is one of Europe's greatest ski areas with 400 miles of piste served by 207 lifts, regularly upgraded to create a well-linked circuit covering both France and Switzerland. Avoriaz is its best-known resort and was the first in Europe to appreciate the importance of snowboarding. It is one of the world's major snowboarding centers.

The resort has three terrain parks, including La Chapelle, designed for beginners. The best powder runs are found on both sides of the Swiss border and after a fresh snowfall the itineraries parallel to the notorious Wall can be breathtaking.

Best for families: Val d'Isère, France. Val has a dozen ski and snowboard schools, and competition is always healthy. The Village d'Enfants caters to 3- to 8-year-olds. Petit Poney kindergarten collects and delivers children 3 and older from your chalet or hotel. ESF, Snow Fun, Oxygene and Evolution 2 all teach beginners from 3 or 4 years old. Billabong snowboard school is for riders aged 7 and over.

Best for eating out: Ros Casanova, Italy. Hotel Rosa Alpina is 300 yards from the Piz Sorreila trail in Cassanese in the Sella Ronda. The prize-winning hotel has been owned by the Pizzini family since 1940 and has one of the best restaurants in the area, called St. Hubert. The restaurant has enjoyed a Michelin star since 2000 and chef Norbert Niederkofler creates local dishes with a gourmet twist. The dining room is candlelit with red velvet chairs and 50 top white linen tablecloths are in line with the setting. A five-course tasting menu costs 79 euros per person.

Self-service mountain restaurants have prices to match their altitude. By searching carefully, the discerning skier can find waiter-service restaurants with a more welcoming atmosphere.

Best for nightlife: St. Anton, Austria. Its vibrant après ski scene starts to warm up from 6 p.m. in the Sennhütte before skiers and riders make their way down to the noisy Mooswirth just above the final descent to the resort. Just above it is the equally popular Krazy Kangaroo. Most guests, after dancing in their ski boots and consuming copious amounts of alcohol, still manage to negotiate on skis the final 1,000 yards home in the dark.

Down in the resort, the action continues until sundown at the Underground, as well as at the Postkeller or the Platzl, which have live music. After midnight, the scene switches to the Piccadilly, Bar Cuba and the Kandahar.

Best for scenery: Méribel, France. Méribel is at the heart of the Trois Vallées, the most convenient base from which to explore the 189 lifts and 375 miles of piste that make up the largest truly linked ski area in the world.

It is also the most appealing ski resort in the Trois Vallées, with its traditional chalets built from local wood, stone and slate. Indiana Lodge is situated on a commanding position overlooking the resort with scenic views of the valley and Mont Vallon from the wrap-around terrace.

Best for value: Poiana Brasov, Romania. Poiana Brasov is the country's best-known resort, located in the Carpathian mountains, a three-hour drive north of Bucharest. The 8½-mile ski area is small but offers plenty of challenge to beginners and intermediates searching for a pleasant, budget-priced resort. Engadland-based ski tour operators have packages offering room with half-board for a week starting at around \$278 per person, or \$540 for the two who wish to fly there round-trip from London. Hotel Alpin is the only three-star hotel in the area.

Ski Clubs & Events

Stars and Stripes

What do you do if you're new to Europe and are looking for advice on snowboard or ski equipment, suitable resorts and affordable trips?

Join the club.

Nearly many large U.S. bases in Europe are ski clubs made up of other Americans — many of whom know a thing or two about European slopes.

The clubs organize trips to different resorts throughout the

winter, hold periodic equipment swaps and often have social events during the off-season. By joining a club, you'll not only find out about the best places to ski or snowboard, but also find someone to do them with.

During the winter, this column will list names and contacts for ski clubs and other organizations that offer ski trips and update their schedules of events.

The fastest way to add a club or organization to this list or to correct or update a listing is to send it by e-mail to: travel@mailestrips.com. You also may fax it to: (+49) (0)6155-601-416. If you have questions, please call (+49) (0)6155-601-380.

GERMANY

FRANKFURT INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Area: Frankfurt

President: Rob Pinnington

Telephone: 069-9720-3669

E-mail: info@fiscweb.org

Web site: www.fiscweb.org

Address: c/o Trevor Wolf, CMR

453, Box 939, APO AE 96074; or

c/o Rob Pinnington, Im Stichel 2,

61273 Wehrheim, Germany

Membership fees: 20 euros for

single, 30 euros for family.

Meetings: 7 p.m. every other

Wednesday at The Fox and the

Fiddle Pub and Music Hall, Bleich-

strasse 46, Frankfurt, beginning

Nov. 3.

Scheduled trips: Oct. 29-31 Kap-

runn, Austria (185 euros); Nov.

11-14 Stubaui, Austria (245 euros);

Nov. 19-21 Kaunertal, Austria (175

euros); Nov. 20-24 Hinter-

lux, Austria (385 euros);

Dec. 3-5 Hochgurgl, Austria

(195 euros); Dec. 9-12 Saas

Fee, Switzerland (255 euros);

Dec. 9-12 Corvina, Italy (190

euros); Dec. 12-14 Val d'Isère,

France (890 euros);

Dec. 26-Jan. 1 St. Veit I,

Austria (395 euros); Dec. 29-Jan. 2

Interlaken/Jungfrau, Switzerland

(395 euros); Jan. 7-9 Kitzbühel,

Austria (220 euros); Jan. 14-16

Aletschgebiet, Switzerland (185

euros); Jan. 14-17 St. Anton I, Aus-

trian (275 euros); Jan. 21-23 Davos,

Switzerland (285 euros); Jan. 28-30

Andamant, Switzerland (195 euros);

Jan. 29 Schwarzwaal, Germany (40

euros); Feb. 4-6 Champoluc, Italy

(425 euros); Feb. 4-6 Adelboden,

Switzerland (265 euros); Feb. 11-13

Villars, Switzerland (245

euros); Feb. 13-19 St.

Veit II, Austria (380

euros); Feb. 18-20 Zermatt, Switzer-

land (195 euros); Feb. 18-21

Grans-Montana (265

euros); Feb. 25-27 Zell

am See, Austria (200 euros); Feb. 26-

March 5 Banff, Canada (200

euros); March 4-6 Disentis/Sedrun,

Switzerland (185 euros); March

10-13 Chamonix, France (225

euros); March 11-13 Laax/Films

SEE SKI EVENTS, PAGE 32

Ski Clubs & Events

SKI EVENTS, FROM PAGE 31

(Falera, Switzerland (295 euros); March 18-20 Klosters, Switzerland (255 euros); March 24-28 St. Moritz, Switzerland (340 euros); March 26-April 2 Val Thorens, France (485 euros); April 1-3 St. Anton, Austria (205 euros); April 10-12 Lech, Austria (205 euros); April 14-17 Zermatt, Switzerland (295 euros); April 28-May 1 Ischgl, Austria (270 euros); June 16-19 Chiemsee Adventure, Germany (285 euros); July 1-4 Sächsische Schweiz, Germany (255 euros). These are first sign-up prices; prices increase by 10 euros. Air flight not included in price of Banff trip.

HEIDELBERG INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Area: Heidelberg

President: Tom McKean

Telephone: 06221-70-7087 or 06221-17-2544 or DSN 371-2544

E-mail: president@heidelbergski.com or Thomas.mckean@medic.vccps.army.mil

Web site: www.heidelbergski.com

Address: CMR 416 Box 1909, APO AE 09102 or Postfach 105743, 69115 Heidelberg

Membership fees: \$30 for adults.

Meetings: 7 p.m. every other Wednesday at Hotel Zagreb in Schwetzingen. Next meeting Nov. 5.

Scheduled trips: Nov. 7-11, Stubaui, Austria (300 euros); Nov. 26-30 Zermatt, Switzerland (340 euros); Nov. 26-30, Obergurgl, Austria (335 euros); Dec. 11-14, Stubai, Austria (230 euros); Dec. 14-20, Portofino, Switzerland (700 euros); Dec. 20-27, Araba, Italy (500 euros); Dec. 30-Jan. 4, Chamonix, France (570 euros); Jan. 11-17, St. Veit, Austria (380 euros).

KAISERSLAUTERN SKI CLUB

Area: Kaiserslautern Military Community

President: Bob Carper

Telephone: 06303-4751

E-mail: carperb@msn.com

Web site: www.geocities.com/k_townskiclub

Address: Bob Carper, PSC 10, Box 825, APO AE 09142

Meetings: 7 p.m. on first and third Wednesday of month at Kazzaba Club on Vogelweh.

Scheduled trips: Nov. 24-28 Stubaui, Austria (250 euros); Dec. 19-25 St. Veit, Austria (400 euros); Dec. 26-Jan. 1, St. Veit, Austria (400 euros); Jan. 14-17 Davos, Switzerland (315 euros); Jan. 28-30 Wilde Kaiser, Austria (145 euros); Feb. 11-13 Serfaus, Austria (185 euros); Feb. 17-21 Chamonix, France (430 euros); Feb. 26-Mar. 5 Trois Vallées, France (480 euros); March 16-20 Lenzerheide, Switzerland (210 euros); April 1-3 Verbier, Switzerland (150 euros); April 22-24 Lech, Austria (215 euros). A non-refundable 50-euro deposit required for all trip



Photo courtesy of the Kaiserslautern Ski Club

Members of the Kaiserslautern Ski Club stop for a group shot with a furry companion on the slopes of Zermatt, Switzerland.

sign-ups.

MANNHEIM INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Area: Mannheim

President: Roseann Drydale

Contact: Janet-Anne Boykin

Telephone: 06206-75268

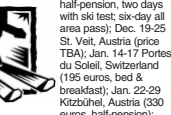
E-mail: www.boykin@nomzicmcken@aol.com

Web site: www.skimisc.com

Membership fees: \$25 for singles, \$35 for families.

Meetings: Every other Thursday at the Viernheim Tennis club beginning Oct. 28. (First left coming from BFV Friendship Circle toward Rhein Neckar Centrum.)

Scheduled trips: Nov. 10-14 Stubaui, Austria (300 euros + 40 euros single supplement); Dec. 11-18 Malleva (Dolomites), Italy (530 euros, half-pension, two days with ski test, six-day all areas pass); Dec. 19-25 St. Veit, Austria (price TBA); Jan. 14-17 Portofino, Italy (195 euros, bed & breakfast); Jan. 22-29 Kitzbühel, Austria (330 euros, half-pension); Feb. 18-21 St. Anton, Austria (180 euros, bed & breakfast); April 9-16 Meribel, France (price TBA, slope-side apartments). Prices based on double occupancy unless single supplement is stated.



PATCH SKI CLUB

Area: Stuttgart

Publicity: Mike Moon

Telephone: DSN 430-5789

E-mail: info@psc-ski.org and kline@eucumil.com

Address: CMR 480, Box 198, APO AE 09128

Membership fees: \$30 singles, \$45 families.

Meetings: Nov. 17 in Patch Community Club at 7 p.m. Next meetings: Dec. 1 and 15, Jan. 5 and 19, Feb. 2 and 16, March 2, 16 and 30, April 20 and May 4, 21

Scheduled trips: Nov. 10-14 Stubaui, Austria (320 euros); Nov. 24-28 Obergurgl, Austria (320 euros); Nov. 24-28 Zermatt I, Switzerland (395); Zermatt II, Switzerland (340 euros); Dec. 10-12

Scheduled trips: Nov. 10-14 Stubaui, Austria (320 euros); Nov. 24-28 Obergurgl, Austria (320 euros); Nov. 24-28 Zermatt I, Switzerland (395); Zermatt II, Switzerland (340 euros); Dec. 10-12

Scheduled trips: Nov. 10-14 Stubaui, Austria (320 euros); Nov. 24-28 Obergurgl, Austria (320 euros); Nov. 24-28 Zermatt I, Switzerland (395); Zermatt II, Switzerland (340 euros); Dec. 10-12

Scheduled trips: Nov. 10-14 Stubaui, Austria (320 euros); Nov. 24-28 Obergurgl, Austria (320 euros); Nov. 24-28 Zermatt I, Switzerland (395); Zermatt II, Switzerland (340 euros); Dec. 10-12

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Davos, Switzerland (220 euros); Dec. 12-19 Club Med-Cervina, Italy (770 euros); Dec. 19-26 Arberg I-Giron, Austria (580 euros); Dec. 19-26 Arberg I-Alpine, Austria (430 euros); Dec. 25-Jan. 2 Les Menuires, France (660 euros); Dec. 26-Jan. 1 Siegf I-St. Veit, Austria (340 euros); Dec. 30-Jan. 2 Verbier, Switzerland (210 euros); Jan. 13-17 Saas Fee, Switzerland (380 euros); Jan. 14-17 Kitzbühel, Austria (300 euros); Siegf II-St. Veit, Austria (390 euros); Jan. 28-30 Zell am See, Austria (205 euros); Feb. 4-6 Engelberg, Switzerland (190 euros); Feb. 18-21 Junfrau, Switzerland (230 euros); March 4-6, Gstaad, Switzerland (200 euros); March 17-20 Chamonix, France (380 euros); April 7-10 St. Moritz, Switzerland (April 7-10); April 9-16 Val Thorens, France (320 euros); April 29-May 1 Ischgl, Austria (220 euros); May 27-30 Lemnos, Austria (200 euros); May 27-30 Siegf Golf I-St. Veit, Austria (260 euros). All trips are double occupancy.

TANNENBAUM SKI CLUB

Area: Kaiserslautern Military Community, Ellfeld, Baumholder, Mannheim regions (Rheinland-Pfalz) and Spangdahlem

E-mail contacts: David Hanavan, dave@tannenbaumskiclub.com; Rick Kane, rickvp@tannenbaumskiclub.com; Sylvia Warren, sylvia@tannenbaumskiclub.com; Barbara Campbell, barbara@tannenbaumskiclub.com; Daria Edmonds, freeheel@tannenbaumskiclub.com

Telephone: 06301-3478

Web address: www.tannenbaumskiclub.com

Address: c/o Rick Kane, Im Amstel 2, 67697 Otterberg, Germany

Membership fees: \$35 for singles, \$70 for families.

Meetings: First and third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in Landstuhl Combined Community Club.

Scheduled trips: Nov. 24-29

Scheduled trips: Nov. 24-29

Scheduled trips: Nov. 24-29

Scheduled trips: Nov. 24-29

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Stubaui, Austria (275 euros); Nov. 24-29 Zermatt, Switzerland (340 euros); Dec. 3-5 Obergurgl, Austria (205 euros); Dec. 12-19 Val d'Isère Club Med, France (875 euros); Dec. 19-26 Siegf I Week, St. Veit-Alpendorf, Austria (385 euros); Dec. 26-Jan. 2 Dolomites Super Ski Week (630 euros); Jan. 14-17 Chamonix, France (250 euros); Jan. 14-17 Zell-am-See, Austria (240 euros); Jan. 14-17 Crans-Montana, Switzerland (240 euros); Jan.



30-Feb. 5 Siegf II Week, St. Veit-Alpendorf, Austria (price TBA); Feb. 4-6 Gstaad, Switzerland (200 euros); Feb. 18-21 Verbier-4 Valleys, Switzerland (210 euros); Feb. 18-21 Portes des Soies, France (245 euros); Feb. 18-21 Bad Gastein, Austria (235 euros); March 4-6 Jungfrau, Switzerland (160 euros); March 11-13 Davos, Switzerland (215 euros); April 1-3 Engelberg, Switzerland (200 euros); April 8-10 St. Anton, Austria (165 euros); April 29-May 1 Ischgl, Austria (205 euros); May 27-30 Lake Constance Bâle Safari, (280 euros); June 1-Aug. 31 Siegf Golf Weeks, St. Veit, Austria (price TBA).

All trips by bus except the Siegf trips, which are u-drive. U-drive arrangements can be made on other trips. Meals and beverages included on bus trips.

SEE SKI EVENTS, PAGE 33

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SKI EVENTS, FROM PAGE 32

WÜRZBURG INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB
Area: Würzburg

Acting president: Mike Hall
Telephone: 06109-181562

E-mail: wksclub@hotmail.com

Web site: www.wksclub.org

Address: WISC, CMR 475, Box 1, APO AE 09093

Membership fees: 25 euros for singles, 40 euros for families.

Meetings: 6 p.m. on first and third Wednesdays of month at Zum Kirschbaum Gasthaus on Würzburgstr. 18 in Rottendorf.

Scheduled trips: Nov. 12-14 Stubai, Austria (175 euros); Nov. 20 wine tasting in Randersacker (25 euros); Nov. 24-28 Interlaken, Austria (340 euros); Dec. 19-25 St. Veit, Austria (535 euros, including lessons); Jan. 14-17 Dolomites, Italy (220 euros); Feb. 16-21 Verbier, Switzerland (220 euros); March 4-6 Jürdisch, Switzerland (190 euros); April 9-16 Trois Vallées, France (200-315 euros); April 29-May 1 Ischgl, Austria (230 euros).

OUTDOOR RECREATION
TRIPS

BAUMHOLDER OUTDOOR RECREATION: Nov. 11-14 Kaprun, Austria (831\$); 24-27 Kaprun, Austria (841\$); Dec. 17-19, Jan. 21-23, Feb. 25-27, March 11-13 Interlaken, Switzerland (\$125 for transportation and lodging, \$25 per night).

GESSEN OUTDOOR RECREATION: Nov. 28-30 Zermatt, Switzerland (prices TBA); Dec. 13 Garmisch, Germany (prices TBA)

HANAU OUTDOOR RECREATION: Nov. 24-28 Garmisch, Switzerland (\$229).

KAISERSLAUTERN OUTDOOR RECREATION: Oct. 29-31 Hinterzarten, Austria (210\$); Nov. 5-7 Sölden, Austria (219\$); Nov. 6 ski express (55\$); Nov. 11-14 Stubai, Austria (239\$); Nov. 13 ski express (55\$); Nov. 19-21 Hinterzarten, Austria (145\$); Nov. 20 ski express (55\$); Nov. 25-28 Kaprun, Austria (230\$); Nov. 27 ski express (85\$); Dec. 3-5 Obereggen, Austria (189\$); Dec. 4 ski express (55\$); Dec. 11 ski express (55\$); Dec. 17-19 Laax-Flims, Switzerland (189\$); Dec. 18 ski express (55\$); Dec. 23-26 Garmisch, Switzerland (\$229); Dec. 23-26 Garmisch, Germany (227\$); Dec. 25 ski express to Garmisch, Germany (55\$); Dec. 26 ski express to Feldberg, Germany (55\$); Dec. 30-Jan. 2 Garmisch, Germany (\$279). For details, call DSN 489-7751 or civilian 0651-536-7751.

MANHEIM OUTDOOR RECREATION: Dec. 18 and 26, Jan. 1, 15 and 29, Feb. 19, and 26, March 12 and 26 and April 2 and 10 Engelberg, Switzerland (550\$); Jan. 8, 17 and 22, Feb. 5, 12 and 19 and March 5 and 19 Feldberg, Germany (335\$). Call DSN 381-7215 or 817-7322, or civilian 0621-730-7215 or 0621-730-7232; or fax 0621-721-653.

SPANDAUHEIM OUTDOOR RECREATION: Nov. 24-28 Gstaad, Switzerland (\$290 for dorm, \$365 in double room); Dec. 17-19, Jan. 7-9, Feb. 18-20 and March 11-13 Gstaad (\$265 dorm, \$340 double room); Jan. 21-23, Feb. 11-13, March 11-13 Feldberg, Germany (\$275 in double room). For details, call 06556-51-7176.

STUTTGART OUTDOOR RECREATION: Dec. 26-Jan. 2 Gstaad, Switzerland (\$620 adults, \$434 for ages 12-16, \$310 for 6-11); Jan. 14-17 St. Gallenkirch, Austria (820 adults, \$190 ages 7-14, \$135 up to age 6); Jan. 23-30 Shornard, Switzerland (\$590 adults, \$295 children under age 17); Feb. 3 Feldberg, Germany (\$50 with equipment rental, \$15 without); Feb. 5, March 12 and 18 and April 2 St. Gallenkirch, Austria (\$30 with equipment rental, \$15 without); Feb. 18-21 St. Gallenkirch, Austria (price TBA); April 10-17 St. Gallenkirch, Austria (\$590 adults, \$295 for children under 17).

VICENZA OUTDOOR RECREATION: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13 and 27 Val Senales, Italy, Dec. 4 and 25, Jan. 6 and 29, Feb. 19, March 5 and 26 Oberengien, Italy, Dec. 1 Jan. 1 and 19 Feb. 12 and 19 April 3 and 5 San Martino, Italy; Dec. 18, Jan. 17, Feb. 12 and March 19 Alleghe, Italy. Call DSN 634-7453.

Don't forget that daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed and enjoy the extra hour of sleep!

With the shorter days and colder weather upon us, more walking clubs will be offering just 5- and 10-kilometer trails. With the arrival of fall, the number of control points may also decrease.

While most clubs typically have two control points during the summer for a 10-kilometer course, a great many will only provide one during the fall and winter. I've even attended a couple that had no controls at all. Keeping this in mind, it's even more important to carry a small water bottle with you. In the colder climates, your family and even the family dog must still stay hydrated. Don't let the cold weather fool you ... carry fluids.

The good folks in Baumholder, Germany, are sponsoring their 24th volksmarch event this Saturday and Sunday. You have a choice between 5-10- and 20-kilometer marches. Start all three each day, 8

a.m. to 1 p.m.; finish by 5 p.m. There is no supervision at the end of your walk but don't let that deter you; enjoy the company of the Bahnkreuzer Baumholder members and your fellow Americans!

Notes about this week's events:

• As the brochure says again this year, dogs are not permitted in the Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Jennifer West



Schulzentrum Süd start location. Don't allow that to keep you away from this event, just leave the dog in the car just long enough to pick up your start card and brochures and then take "Fido" along for a volksmarch! A pupper club with a winter motif is the A-medal; left-over awards (B-medals) from previous years are also available.

• The AWO Behindertenerwerkstatt is the Nethpen-Deuz, Germany, start location. Start the 6K, 11K and 16K trails between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday; finish by 4:15 p.m.

• A 32-centimeter-tall porcelain clown can be your prize for walking this weekend in Schwaikheim, Germany.

• Volkskalm, Mainz, Germany, holds its annual torch walk this weekend in just west

start location, the Mainschieff-Halle. An extremely popular and very nice volksmarch, this is one not to miss. The souvenir is a wine glass with a handle. If you plan to walk in the dark, the club recommends you bring a flashlight.

• Notes from Clark Soeldner, our Italian walking connection:

"Baruchella hosts the eighth edition of the Walk of the Kiwi, hence a 'kiwi confection' award."

"Magnano is nestled against the mountains, the filer notes there is a 220-meter gain at the start. The course is mixed asphalt and forest trails, with the longer walks skirting the Alta Val Torre area. The 18K passes the old church of S. Stefano in the town of Artesia. The theme of the walk is chestnuts, and people carry plastic bags to pick up nuts along the route."

"The Terno d'Isola SK is adapted for the disabled. Although no elevation charts are provided, the north and south panoramas show the longer routes in the hills or mountains surrounding Monte Canto. The latest arrival time is 5 p.m. and the award is two bottles of wine, Würstel and a T-shirt."

E-mail Jennifer West at volksmarch@mail.stripenet.org, mail. Write her at: Volksmarch, Stars and Stripes, Bldg. 2899, Pulkavik Barracks, APO AE 09227-3717 (MPS)

Listings of upcoming volksmarches come from brochures of IVV-sanctioned events that were either collected at volksmarches or mailed to Jennifer West. Locations are noted in the host language whenever possible. More extensive lists are available in the IVV or DVV-IVV Terminale.

Country/Town	Day(s) & Time(s)	Code	Km.	Starting Point	Award	Directional Reference
Austria						
Kufstein	Sat 0800-1400, Sun 0700-1200	F	10 & 15	Hotel Hechtsee	Latern	S of Rosenheim, GE
Belgium						
Bieren	Mon 0700-1500	-	7, 11, 18	Parochiezaal Biesen	No award	W of Maastricht, NL
Oostham	Mon 0700-1500	-	7, 10, 17	Kristofelshiem	Slicker	SW of Lommel
Denmark						
Arhus	Sun 0900-1100	-	6 & 12	St. Anne Gade Skole	No award	-
Arhus	Sun 0900-1100	-	19 & 24	St. Anne Gade Skole	No award	-
Ravsted	Sat 1500	-	5 & 10	Præstegård	No award	NW of Flensborg, GE
Germany						
Bad Sodenheim	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	F	6, 11, 20	Leinendörhalle	Waist pack	RP, W of Bad Kreuznach
Baumholder	Sat & Sun 0800-1300	FY	5, 10, 20	Brillstraße	No award	RP, NW of Oberhausen
Forst	Sat 0700-1400, Sun 0700-1300	BDNFNSX & S	10	Waldseehalle	Hat pin	BWN, N of Bruchsal
Forst	Sat 0700-1300	BDNFNSX	20	Waldseehalle	Hat pin	BWN, N of Bruchsal
Garching	Sat 0700-1200	BFX	5, 10, 20	Heisenberg-Gym.	B-medal	MCS, N of München
Güdingen	Sat 0700-1300, Sun 0700-1200	BFX	5, 10, 20	Festhalle	B-medal	SAR, SE of Saarbrücken
Hof/Westerwald	Mon 0700-1500	FC	5 & 10	Mehrzechwalle	EK souvenir	RP, N of Limburg
Kaiserslautern	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	FC	20	Mehrzechwalle	EK souvenir	RP, N of Limburg
Kaiserslautern	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	BDPFX	5	Schulzentrum Süd	Pewter cup	RP, -
Langenzenn	Mon 0700-1400	FY	5, 10, 20	Stadthalle	Bear mof bag	FRM, NW of Nürnberg
Nethpen-Deuz	Sun 0800-1300	CFN	6, 11, 16	See misc. notes	Bird feeder	NRW, NE of Siegen
Schwaikheim	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	CF	6, 11, 20	Meineldenhalle	Crowdclapper	BWN, NE of Stuttgart
Serkende	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	CF	5, 10, 15	Schützenhalle	Cup	NRW, NE of Olpe
Tuningen	Sat 1000-1400, Sun 0800-1300	BFXY	6, 10 & 15	Turn- und Festhalle	B-medal	BWS, SE of Vill.
Tuningen	Sat 1000-1200, Sun 0800-1300	BFXY	21	Turn- und Festhalle	B-medal	BWS, SE of Vill.-Schwenningen
Untersiettingen	Sat 1000-1500, Sun 0700-1300	F	10 & 20	Mehrzweckhalle	Witch	BWS, SW of Ulm
Untersiettingen	Sat 1000-1500, Sun 0700-1300	Bike	25 & 50	Mehrzweckhalle	Witch	BWS, SW of Ulm
Volkskalm	Sat 0900-1600, Sun 0700-1300	BFX	6 & 11	Mainschieff-Halle	Wine glass handle	FRU, NE of Würzburg
Volkskalm	Sat 1500-1600, Sun 0700-1300	BFX	6 & 11	Mainschieff-Halle	Wine glass handle	FRU, NE of Würzburg
Volkskalm	Sat 0900-1300, Sun 0700-1200	BFX	20	Mainschieff-Halle	Wine glass handle	FRU, NE of Würzburg
Italy						
Baruchella	Sat 0830-0900	FX	6, 12, 20	Piazza Liberta	Confection	W of Rovigo
Magnano in Riviera	Sun 0900-1000	F	3 & 6	Central plaza	No award	SE of Gemona
Magnano in Riviera	Sun 0900-1000	F	12 & 18	Central plaza	No award	SE of Gemona
Terno d'isola	Sun 0900-0930	FW	5	Via Casolini	See misc. notes	W of Bergamo
Terno d'isola	Sun 0900-0930	F	8	Via Casolini	See misc. notes	W of Bergamo
Terno d'isola	Sun 0900-0930	F	15 & 24	Via Casolini	See misc. notes	W of Bergamo
Terno d'isola	Sun 0700-0800	F	32	Via Casolini	See misc. notes	W of Bergamo
Terno d'isola	Sun 0700-0800	M	50	Via Casolini	See misc. notes	W of Bergamo
Netherlands						
Beek	Sun 0730-1400	-	6 & 12	Ooshaka	No award	NE of Maastricht
Beek	Sun 0730-1200	-	18 & 25	Ooshaka	No award	NE of Maastricht

GENERAL CODES

B - Awards from past events available (B-medals)

T - Evening/Night walk, handcarry a flashlight

D - Shower or wash facilities available at start hall

F - Free refreshment at control points

M - Marathon or long-distance event

N - Nordic walking event

P - Music at start hall (see miscellaneous notes for daytime)

S - Stroller-friendly trails

s - Shorter trail is specifically noted as stroller-friendly

T - Evening/Night walk, handcarry a flashlight

X - Award available only while supply lasts

W - Course suitable for wheelchair participants

Y - Young Walkers-Tour or Bambini-Liga event

3 - Reduced price of 3.80 euros for start card & B-medal

SHH - Schleswig-Holstein/Samburg

NDS - Niedersachsen/Berlin

NRW - Nordrhein-Westfalen

RP - Rheinland-Pfalz

HE - Hessen

SAR - Saarland

BWN - Baden-Württemberg Nord

BWS - Baden-Württemberg Süd

TH - Thüringen/Sachsen

GERMAN STATE/REGION CODES:

FRU - Oberfranken (Upper Franken)

FRM - Mittelfranken (Middle Franken)

FRU - Unterfranken (Lower Franken)

SCH - Schwaben

OPF - Oberpfalz (Upper Franconia)

MOB - Niederbayern

MOB - München-Oberbayern

YOUR MONEY

Quiet weddings have a nice ring to them

Where legal, devices allow venues to jam cell phones

BY OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

The Associated Press

MONTREY, Mexico — It was the reporters who noticed first.

Unable to call their editors while covering the weddings of the rich and famous, they asked the priest why their cell phones never worked at Sacred Heart. His reply: Israeli counterintelligence.

In four Monterrey churches, Israeli-made cell phone jammers the size of paperback books have been tucked unobtrusively among paintings of the Madonna and statues of the saints.

The jarring polychromatic din of ringing cell phones is increasingly being thwarted — from religious sanctuaries to India's parliament to Tokyo theaters and commuter trains — by devices originally developed to help security forces avert eavesdropping and thwart phone-triggered bombings.

The Indian parliament had jammers installed after politicians ignored requests to turn off their cell phones and legislative sessions were constantly interrupted.

In Italy, universities started using the blockers after discovering that cell phone-savvy teenagers were cheating on exams by

sending text messages or taking pictures of tests.

The four Roman Catholic churches in this northern city began using the devices, from Tel Aviv-based Netline Communications Technologies Ltd., after an insurance salesman imported them as a personal favor for a priest.

"There are still many people who don't understand that being at Mass is sharing a moment with God," said the Rev. Juan Jose Martinez, a spokesman for archdiocese. "Sadly, we had no other choice but to use these little gadgets."

Purchased for about \$2,000 each, they can be turned on by remote control and emit low-level radio frequencies that thwart cell phone signals within a 100-foot radius.

Users get a "no service" or "signal not available" message on their cell phones.

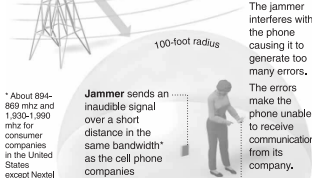
Although Mexico has no law against the devices, the private use of cell phone blockers is illegal in the United States and most Western countries.

But the tide is turning. Japan allows public places such as theaters and concert halls to install jammers, provided they obtain a government-issued license.

They can't hear you now

Churches, businesses, and security and police forces are increasingly purchasing cell phone jamming equipment. The devices keep cell phones from ringing.

Cell phone companies communicate with their phones by transmitting signals. These signals allow the phone to connect



NOTE: Jamming distance varies with manufacturer and cellular signal strength.

Source: Netline

And this month, France's industry minister accepted a decision to let cinemas, concert halls and theaters install them — as long as provisions are in place so emergency calls can still be made.

Canada had considered allowing blocking in similar situations.

But Industry Canada, which regulates the country's telecommunications, decided against it, saying the devices could infringe on per-

The jammer interferes with the phone causing it to generate too many errors. The errors make the phone unable to receive communication from its company.

No service

AP

sonal freedom and affect public safety by crippling communication with law enforcement and security agencies.

Officials at Netline, which sold its first jammer in 1998, say they are selling thousands of jammers a year and have expanded their business throughout the world.

They're far from the only manufacturers. The devices are sold the world over, with dozens of suppliers selling them on the Internet.

Tokyo-based Meic Inc. sold thousands of its Wave Wall jammers before the government stepped in and regulated their use to venues with live performances. Commuters still buy mobile jammers to shut up chatty train passengers, even though their use is illegal.

In Scotland, businessman Ronnie McGuire, owner of Electron Electrical Engineering Services, imported Taiwanese-made cell phone

blockers and sold them to hotels, restaurants and bars until a local newspaper reported his activities, which were illegal in Britain.

McGuire has said he will still import the Taiwanese devices but sell them for export only to countries where they are allowed.

Loreen Hain, the director of marketing and sales for Netline, wouldn't say how many devices the company sells per year or what country buys the most.

In Mexico, the main clients have been banks looking to stop would-be robbers from communicating with their accomplices and the Mexican government, which is planning to use them at prisons, Hain said.

Sacred Heart officials acquired their blockers two years ago.

"Whenever there was a wedding, cell phones would ring every five minutes," said Bulmaro Carrazza, a parish clerk. "It was a real problem because there were times when even the groom would forget to turn his cell phone off."

For months, the devices went unnoticed until reporters covering the weddings began complaining that their cell phones never worked.

Since word of the jammers went public, priests from around Mexico have been calling to find out how to get them, said Carrazza.

At Sacred Heart, a device at the entrance to the church and another by the altar are turned on right before the wedding. They remind parishioners to turn off their phones before beginning the services, hoping good cell phone etiquette will eventually catch on.

Margarita Escobedo, a Catholic who goes to church at least twice a week and volunteers at the San Genaro church, says she would welcome the jammers in her parish, where cell phones are becoming a nuisance.

"Those who bring cell phones to church are not committed to God," Escobedo said. "It's very distracting to be praying and suddenly hear birds chirping or techno music."

TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

High	Low	High	Low
52-week	52-week	52-week	52-week
1,435.05	1,434.54	Dow Jones Industrials	10,980.49
3,435.05	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	1,435.41
10,980.49	10,979.88	Dow Jones Utilities	214.54
6,798.12	5,851.34	NYSE Composite	6,598.45
1,312.48	1,019.41	AMEX	1,511.57
1,312.48	1,019.41	Nasdaq Composite	1,529.79
1,163.23	1,028.91	S&P 500	1,111.89
53.17	53.17	S&P 500 VIX	39.52
696.42	586.43	Russell 2000	577.61
11,317.14	9,363.49	D. Wilshire 2000	10,893.78

NYSE

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Name	Vol
AT&T	548,108
United	461,717
Verizon	380,443
Bank	269,461
Bank	269,461
Bank	269,461
Bank	269,461
Bank	269,461
Bank	269,461
Bank	269,461
Bank	269,461

AMEX

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Name	Vol
Nasdaq	96,008
United	54,011
Verizon	54,011
Bank	54,011
Bank	54,011
Bank	54,011
Bank	54,011
Bank	54,011
Bank	54,011
Bank	54,011

NASDAQ

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Name	Vol
Microsoft	7,769,258
Apple	6,899,148
Google	5,012,246
Amazon	4,892,148
Facebook	4,892,148
Twitter	4,892,148
LinkedIn	4,892,148
YouTube	4,892,148
Instagram	4,892,148
Pinterest	4,892,148

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

Name	High	Low	High	Low
Alliant Techsystems	44	57.22	44	-9
Airbus	120	21.21	120	-4.1
Boeing	80	49.28	80	+15.6
General Dynamics	24	47.38	24	-13.9
Lockheed Martin	100	47.38	100	-13.9
Northrop Grumman	28	31.63	28	+6.6
Raytheon	28	31.63	28	+6.6
United Technologies	28	31.63	28	+6.6
Boeing	80	49.28	80	+15.6
Boeing	80	49.28	80	+15.6
Boeing	80	49.28	80	+15.6
Boeing	80	49.28	80	+15.6
Boeing	80	49.28	80	+15.6
Boeing	80	49.28	80	+15.6
Boeing	80	49.28	80	+15.6
Boeing	80	49.28	80	+15.6
Boeing	80	49.28	80	+15.6
Boeing	80	49.28	80	+15.6

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	NAV	Chg.	%YTD
Fidelity Invest: Grolic	31.57	+4.5	+1.0
Fidelity Invest: Gronic	43.96	+4.4	+1.0
Century Century Int: Ultra	26.68	+3.3	+1.1
Fidelity Spartan: Genc	25.48	+5.8	+1.1
Fidelity Invest: Fidelity	17.78	+3.9	+1.1
Fidelity Invest: A: MGP	15.47	+1.5	-3.7
Frank/Temp Risk: SMCPrGr	20.44	+2.2	-7.7
MM Investments A: Corel	13.64	+2.7	+3.1
Fidelity Invest: Oversea	31.75	+1.4	+1.0
Fidelity Advisor : Grdpp1	27.93	+3.7	+2.5
Fidelity Investments A: Wengp	26.38	+3.1	+2.5
Scudder Funds S: GronicS	20.19	+3.1	+6.6
Putnam Funds A: GlobEq	7.63	+0.9	+2.3
MM Investments A: Charkp	11.58	+1.6	-8.9
Fidelity Investments A: Wengp	26.38	+3.1	+2.5
Putnam Lynch I: BalCap	26.72	+2.8	+2.0
Scudder Funds I: Int Fds	39.79	+2.5	+3.6

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	Value
British pound	\$1.3142
Japanese yen (Oct. 28)	104.00
South Korean won (Oct. 27)	1,095.00
Commercial rates	Value
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37679
British pound	\$1.31362
Canada (Dollar)	1.2522
Denmark (Krone)	5.48
Egypt (Pound)	0.2547
Euro	\$1.2771
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7884
Hungary (Forint)	193.55
India (Rupee)	68.15
Israel (Shekel)	4.4327
Japan (Yen)	109.15
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.29460
Malaysia (Ringgit)	0.60
Philippines (Peso)	56.32
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	2.67
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6354
South Korea (Won)	1,133.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.137
Thailand (Baht)	1,473,000.00

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates, see (purchasing British pounds in Germany) check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for dollar, euro and buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-euro, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Help with bankruptcy

BY CHUCK MYERS
Knight Rider/Tribune

Declaring bankruptcy is not an easy choice. But for individuals and businesses facing a dire situation, it can be a welcome option.

There are different types of bankruptcy. For instance, Chapter 7 bankruptcy is designed for individuals, while Chapter 11 deals with businesses. These books explain what bankruptcy means and what it can entail.

"Personal Bankruptcy Simplified," by Daniel Sitara Novak — offers insights on canceling

major debt, dealing with creditors and deciding if Chapter 7 is the right option.

"The Bankruptcy Kit, 3rd Ed." by Victor Ventura Deaborn — spotlights different types of bankruptcy and filing processes.

"How to File for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy, 1st Ed." by Stephen Elias, Albin Renauer, Robin Leonard and Kathleen Michon — explains how to file, going to court and more.

"Bankruptcy Step By Step," by James John Jurinski — covers chapters 7, 11 and 13, starting the bankruptcy process and re-establishing credit.

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	Value
Gold	\$424.58
Silver	\$7.24

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	Value
Discount rate	2.75
3-month bill	1.91
30-year mortgage	5.45
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America	

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated program listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2004

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Stanley	Movie ***: "The Boys of 12" (1992, Comedy) Part 1 of 2 Henry Czerny	Dr. Phil	Yu-Gi-Oh! Shadow Game	Nightline	Sports	30 Minute Meals	Yu-Gi-Oh! Shadow Game
9:30 Sagem-Stames Cat	Dr. Phil	Oprah Winfrey	In the Mix	Nightly Business Report		Low Carb & Lovin' It	In the Mix
10:00 Between the Lions (E)	(45) Movie ***: "National Lampoon's European Vacation" (1985, Comedy) Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo	Guiding Light	Headline News	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Design on a Dime	Headline News
11:00 Sagem-Stames Cat		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
11:30 Stanley		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
12:00 Dora the Explorer		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
12:30 The Wiggles		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
13:00 Bob the Builder		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
14:00 Barney & Friends (E)		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
15:00 Funniest Home Videos		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
15:30 Full House "Mr. Egghead"		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
16:00 Pokemon "I Policed 'a So"		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! "Aftermath"		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
17:00 Hey Arnold!		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
17:30 Rocket Power		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
18:30 Rugrats		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
19:00 That '80s Raven		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
19:30 All That		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
20:00 7th Heaven "Peer Pressure"		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
20:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
21:00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
21:30 The Cosby Show		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
22:00 Home Improvement		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
22:30 Touched by an Angel "Secret Service"		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
23:00 Hey Arnold!		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
23:30 Rocket Power		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
00:00 Hey Arnold!		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
00:30 Rocket Power		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
1:00 SpongeBob SquarePants		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
1:30 Rugrats		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
2:00 That '80s Raven		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
2:30 All That		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
3:00 7th Heaven "Peer Pressure"		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
3:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
4:00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
4:30 The Cosby Show		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
5:00 Sesame Street (E)		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
5:30 Barney & Friends (E)		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
6:00 Barney & Friends (E)		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
6:30 Dragon Tales (E)		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
7:00 Bob the Builder		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
7:30 The Wiggles		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
8:00 Dora the Explorer		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
8:30 Dora the Explorer		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
9:00 Stanley		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
9:30 Sagem-Stames Cat		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
10:00 Arthur Buster moves away		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
10:30 Between the Lions (E)		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
11:00 Sagem-Stames Cat		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
11:30 Stanley		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
12:00 Dora the Explorer		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
12:30 The Wiggles "Work"		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
13:00 Bob the Builder		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
14:00 Blue's Clues "Matti"		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
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15:00 Funniest Home Videos		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
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19:00 ChalkZone		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
19:30 The Weekenders (E)		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
20:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
20:30 All That		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
21:00 Lizzie McGuire		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
21:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
22:00 Switched!		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
22:30 Radio Free Roscoe		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
23:00 The Cosby Show		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News
23:30 Home Improvement		General Hospital	Headline News	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Headline News

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2004

00:00 Hey Arnold!	(11:30) Movie ***: "Bull Durham" (1988) Kevin Costner	(11:30) Late Show	(11:30) Today Nicole Kidman; Sandra Bullock	(11:30) Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	(11:30) Today Nicole Kidman; Sandra Bullock
00:30 Rocket Power	(12:30) Movie ***: "Lethal Weapon 2" (1989) Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Joe Pesci	Access Hollywood	Sesame Street (E)	NBC Nightly News		One Tree Hill "The Games That We Play"	Sesame Street (E)
1:00 SpongeBob SquarePants		4 Q's	ABC World News Tonight	CBS Evening News	Sports	The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
1:30 Rugrats		WLB Baseball World Series Game 5 - Teams TBA. If necessary, alternate prime-time lineup. "Reduction" and local programming. (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
2:00 That '80s Raven			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
2:30 All That			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
3:00 7th Heaven "Peer Pressure"			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
3:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
4:00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
4:30 The Cosby Show			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
5:00 Sesame Street (E)			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
5:30 Barney & Friends (E)			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
6:00 Barney & Friends (E)			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
6:30 Dragon Tales (E)			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
7:00 Bob the Builder			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
7:30 The Wiggles			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
8:00 Dora the Explorer			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
8:30 Dora the Explorer			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
9:00 Stanley			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
9:30 Sagem-Stames Cat			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
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14:00 Blue's Clues "Matti"			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
15:00 Funniest Home Videos			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
15:30 Full House			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
16:00 Pokemon			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh!			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
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18:30 Rugrats			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
19:00 ChalkZone			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
19:30 The Weekenders (E)			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
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21:00 Lizzie McGuire			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
21:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
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23:00 The Cosby Show			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune
23:30 Home Improvement			Wheel of Fortune	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		The Practice "The Cradle Will Rock"	Wheel of Fortune

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FACES

Lohan hospitalized with high fever

"Mean Girls" star **Lindsay Lohan** was recovering at a hospital after being admitted with a high fever and headache, her publicist said.

Lohan, 18, has been in Los Angeles filming the upcoming movie "Herbie: Fully Loaded." She was hospitalized Thursday with a 103-degree fever, publicist **Leslie Sloane Zelnik** said.

"She's resting and getting better," Zelnik said Tuesday. The illness forced Lohan to postpone taping a cameo role on "That '70s Show," the sitcom that features her boyfriend, **Wilmer Valderrama**.

Production on "Herbie" also was halted and will resume after Lohan has recovered, Zelnik said.

Kidman's new movie catching flak

In the new film "Birth," **Nicole Kidman** stars as a woman who believes her dead husband is inhabiting a 10-year-old boy's body.

At first Kidman's character dismisses the boy's claims, but his intensity and conviction begin to sway her, and she starts to fall in love with him.

Though the moment is chaste, a scene in which Kidman and the boy (played by **Cameron Bright**) share a bathtub caused a hubbub and drew boos when "Birth" was screened at the Venice Film Festival.

"I see this as a beautiful film about love; I do not see it as something that is exploitive or distasteful," the 37-year-old actress told AP. Television News in an interview Monday. "I would never want to make something like that; it's just not my thing."



Kidman

Tony Bennett unveils sculpture

Tony Bennett unveiled his heart — a 5-foot heart-shaped sculpture on which he painted an image of the Golden Gate Bridge — at Union Square in San Francisco before crowning his famous song to a crowd.

Bennett made the appearance Monday as part of the Hearts in San Francisco project, a collection of 130 decorated heart sculptures that have been displayed on city streets and public spaces since Valentine's Day.

After unveiling his heart, which will be on permanent display at Union Square, Bennett joined the crowd in singing his signature tune, "I Left My Heart in San Francisco."

'Law and Order' viewers 'save' character

"Law & Order: Criminal Intent" viewers gave the villainous character **Nicole Wallace**, played by **Olivia d'Abo**, a stay of execution Sunday.

During the Oct. 17 episode of the NBC drama series, audiences on the East Coast witnessed the bad gal's escape from police Detectives **Robert Goren** (**Vincent D'Onofrio**) and **Alexandra Eames** (**Kathryn Erbe**), while West Coast viewers saw Wallace dead. Visitors to the network's Web site could then see both endings and vote whether the character would live or die.

On Sunday's episode, it was revealed that Wallace didn't bite the dust. According to the Web site, there were 62,074 votes for her to live while 54,224 wanted to see the character dead.

Catherine Zeta-Jones suing topless club

Catherine Zeta-Jones should be flattered that her image was used for advertising and promotion on the Web site of a Nevada topless club, a spokesman for the club said.

Jones is suing The Spice House, which bills itself as "Reno's friendliest topless cabaret," and its owner, **Weslog Resources**, for displaying her picture on "numerous pages" of its Web site without her permission, according to a lawsuit filed last week in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

Sometimes her image was shown alongside partially nude women, and created the false impression the actress "endorsed or approved of the sexually explicit content" and could "dilute the value of her celebrity endorsement," the lawsuit says.

Jones, who won a best-supporting actress Oscar for 2002's "Chicago," seeks unspecified damages and an order barring further use of her likeness.



Zeta-Jones

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

DEALING WITH 'MEN'

Sheen supports new television series but tires of playboy role

BY TERRY MORROW

Scripps Howard News Service

Charlie Sheen gets straight to the point.

"I have to go to the bathroom," he says, shortly before his interview discussing his hit series "Two and a Half Men" (airing 9:30 p.m. Mondays, CBS) begins.

But he soon gets on a roll about talking about the sitcom that is clearly his pride and joy, and ignores nature's call.

He's proud of the show and defends it. He is also frank with his criticisms of it.

Ask him if he likes playing the perennial playboy on TV, and he'll honestly answer, well, not really.

"It's kind of juvenile," he says. "I think I am higher evolved than this guy. I'm tired of lying. That's how I really feel."

"I'm tired of saying, 'Oh, it's great to play [a playboy] and then I get to go home to my wife.' That [bull]. It's juvenile. At some point, you've got to grow up."

On "Men," Sheen plays a version of his well-publicized '90s image — a thoughtless playboy. But on "Men," this Charlie is only kept grounded because his more responsible brother and his nephew live with him.

In real life, Sheen is happily married to actress **Denise Richards**, and they have a baby.

But he admits that for the show to work, it has to maintain some of what the audience expects.

"We're going to stay in our own kind of world," he says. "We're going to tell the stories that gave us a following."

"The second season is important in that people shouldn't tune back into a show and not recognize it. You should stay true to what you delivered the first time."

And sometimes, he says, the world of "Men" can spin off course.

"It works when we stay true to our elements," he says. "It doesn't work when we invite people in and we do things that don't support or celebrate our world."

"It happened a couple of times last season, but if I point out which episodes then the people working on it will read this, and, well, you know. It won't be good, and I'll get a phone call."

Sheen is all for guest stars. He had **Elvis Costello** and **Sean Penn** in the season opener. He has **Martin Sheen**, his dad, and his wife around this season, too.

As for having Dad around, "it will be interesting," he admits.

"He loves the show, and he'd tell me if he didn't. He wants to do this show."



SHHS

Charlie Sheen stars as playboy **Charlie Harper** on the series "Two and a Half Men."

He's always been one of my biggest supporters in a lot of different ways, and he's pretty tactful when he has an opinion about my career."

And his wife? "Denise was the one who read this script and said, 'You have to do this show.' I read it and loved it but was somewhat on the fence about. She was the one who told me it was a good idea to do."

Sheen likes pointing out that the success of "Men" defied critical expectations. The show arrived as the top-rated new comedy of last season, and one of CBS's biggest overall hits.

That, however, did not translate into industry recognition or even

major magazine covers. "Men," a regular Top 20 entry every week, is a quiet hit.

"We were working on the critical narrative last year that the half-hour comedy was dead," Sheen says. "So no one gave us ink after we came on and was successful, for critical would have to admit they were wrong."

Before he can finish his thought, he stops and thinks.

His roll has stopped. He has lost his thought, and he really must move on. "I had some other point to make," he says. "It was funny, and it had three layers to it. It would have made you laugh. But, now, I really have to go."

OPINION

Sinclair's anti-Kerry broadcast blurs lines

BY CHRISTOPHER HANSON

Sinclair Broadcast Group's attempt to force an anti-John Kerry propaganda film onto prime time was the latest example of a disturbing trend: ideological programming that blurs the old distinction between news and opinion.

Conservative Fox News Network's "Fair and Balanced" slogan, for instance, belies a news operation that may see as anything but. While Bill O'Reilly's show boasts that it is a "spin zone," it is well within the GOP's comfort zone most of the time.

For its part, Sinclair has required its 62 TV stations to run pro-Bush commentary provided by company headquarters. Reporters who have left the network complain that news stories were edited to reinforce themes of the commentary — for instance, the dubious claim that we are making significant progress in democratizing Iraq.

Most flagrant was Sinclair's directive — later modified because of howls of protest — to its stations to run a program based on the anti-Kerry documentary "Stolen Honor: Wounds that Never Heal" 11 hours before the election (the program aired Friday night in prime time, but on fewer stations). Produced by Kerry opponent Carlton Sherwood, the film casts the Democratic presidential nominee

as a treasonous liar whose anti-war testimony in Congress in 1971 prolonged the torture of American POWs in North Vietnam.

That charge is preposterous on its face, yet Sinclair proposed airing it as a "news" segment.

One of the central responsibilities of journalism is to separate fact from opinion in order to inoculate the voter against misleading propaganda, as media critic Walter Lippmann pointed out in the 1920s. But the trend toward ideological journalism does exactly the opposite, making it easier for falsehood to masquerade as fact and for voters to cast ballots based on false assumptions. Some conservatives dismiss complaints about Sinclair as the hypocritical whining of liberals who refuse to admit that other broadcast TV networks have a pro-Kerry agenda.

"It's hardly an abuse of public trust ... for Sinclair to present an alternate view of Mr. Kerry's much-ballyhooed days as an anti-war protester," the conservative Boston Herald declared in an Oct. 15 editorial. "The other side of the story has been told ad nauseum ... What half-tuned-in voter can't picture ... Lt. Kerry ... talking about the 'last man' dying for a mistake."

Nonsense. There is a huge difference between presenting multiple sides of a news story and purveying the absurd allegation that

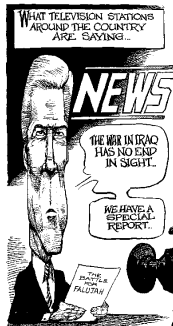
young antiwar activist Kerry single-handedly prolonged the Vietnam War and thus the torture of American POWs.

Not to mention that the three major networks' record this year is hardly pro-Kerry. NBC, CBS and ABC reported heavily on claims of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth that Kerry did not deserve some of his medals and had been sent state-side because of an unintentionally self-inflicted wound. Only after the damage was done did the mainstream media follow up to report that these charges were groundless.

Every reporter has biases and makes mistakes. But that is a far cry from Sinclair's unbridled ideologizing.

Consider Dan Rather, the conservatives' No. 1 whipping boy. He might well have displayed bias, recklessness and incompetence when he relied on forged documents in a recent report on Bush's Air National Guard absenteeism. But Rather apologized when he realized he had been duped. He is at heart a reporter who wants to get the facts right, not a propagandist.

Sinclair, by contrast, only climbed down when the "Stolen Honor" flap began to hurt the network financially. Its stock was falling in value, shareholders were on the warpath, and Wall Street analysts were predicting the company had undermined its hopes of buying even more stations.



Partisan, ideological media have fared well in talk radio and cable TV, where the audience is small and self-selected. But Sinclair is a broadcast network. Its audience is large, geographically and demographically, and many viewers reacted with disgust to the planned documentary, spooking sponsors.

Critics correctly blame sensationalism and other news media ills on commercial pressure. But

here was a case in which market forces had a healthier effect. Let's just hope the folks who favor broadcast deregulation think long and hard before allowing Sinclair to buy more stations. Sixty-two propaganda mills is a more-than-adequate monument to this media company's lust for influence.

Christopher Hanson teaches journalism at the University of Maryland, College Park. This column first appeared in The Baltimore Sun.

Bush critics don't let facts get in way of good story

George W. Bush is a religious fanatic, it's said. He isn't. The man has never admitted being a religious fanatic, critics claim. That's false. He has been strident in his dealings with Democrats, it's alleged. No, the Democrats have been strident in their dealings with him. This president has his faults, but the critics have exaggerated them to the point that some in the country are reportedly seeing red.

Jay Ambrose
Produced by Jay Ambrose, Carlton Sherwood, the film casts the Democratic presidential nominee as a treasonous liar whose anti-war testimony in Congress in 1971 prolonged the torture of American POWs in North Vietnam. That charge is preposterous on its face, yet Sinclair proposed airing it as a "news" segment. One of the central responsibilities of journalism is to separate fact from opinion in order to inoculate the voter against misleading propaganda, as media critic Walter Lippmann pointed out in the 1920s. But the trend toward ideological journalism does exactly the opposite, making it easier for falsehood to masquerade as fact and for voters to cast ballots based on false assumptions. Some conservatives dismiss complaints about Sinclair as the hypocritical whining of liberals who refuse to admit that other broadcast TV networks have a pro-Kerry agenda. "It's hardly an abuse of public trust ... for Sinclair to present an alternate view of Mr. Kerry's much-ballyhooed days as an anti-war protester," the conservative Boston Herald declared in an Oct. 15 editorial. "The other side of the story has been told ad nauseum ... What half-tuned-in voter can't picture ... Lt. Kerry ... talking about the 'last man' dying for a mistake." Nonsense. There is a huge difference between presenting multiple sides of a news story and purveying the absurd allegation that

I don't question that they should get help, if in fact there's a way of restoring people to common sense following a deluge of propagandistic twaddle. But their trepidations should never be confused with sober reactions to reality. Where Bush is bad, he is not so bad as alleged, and John Kerry is mostly worse, an opportunist whose own views are so slippery that just about the time you think you have a grip on one it has squirted out of sight and a new view is being dangled before your eyes.

The people who call Bush a religious nut, for instance, cannot cite any words to verify the claim. My guess is that they are largely ignorant about what their similarly religious neighbors are like — thoroughly decent people who harbor no theocracy-imposing plans. The critics certainly weren't listening when Bush said in the third debate that it's not instructions he receives from God when he prays. It's strength and calm, which is not so worrisome a thing for a wartime president to have.

Careful listeners in that third debate also found Bush agreeing that he has likely made mistakes. What he refused to do — to the dis-

appointment of his political enemies — was pull out a guillotine and put his neck where the blade would fall. He did not say he was wrong in his decision to invade Iraq or in other major decisions in the war on terror. Have I missed it, or has Kerry gone around saying he has messed up big time on a variety of fundamentally important issues?

Bush is a divider, we are told, only he is not the one who has been incessantly on the attack. Visit the words of Sen. Ted Kennedy yesterday, or those of Al Gore even before we arrived at this election year, or of Tom Daschle, Senate leader of the Democrats.

What you will find with Kennedy and Gore is character assassination. Daschle has been more political, but has gone far beyond anything that Bush or others in the White House have ever said in return.

I am not supposing Bush a saint. His spending — as exemplified in a farm bill and Medicare prescription-drug bill — is outlandish. Glance Kerry's way, however, and

you see someone eager to dig his hands deeper in taxpayer pockets so that he can spend still more on largely wasteful programs. Bush's much-maligned "tax cuts for the wealthy" don't come close to bringing us down to the lesser proportion of income taxes the wealthy paid several decades back. The reductions have helped stimulate an economy that was in decline prior to his election and that now boasts an unemployment rate that compares favorably with what was obtained during most of the Clinton years.

I wish Bush were more articulate, that he had met with the press more during his first term, that he had more often come out to talk to the American people as an adult to fellow adults, that his administration had managed the war in Iraq better, that his attorney general had been less heavy-handed on occasion, that he had not caved on a campaign finance measure that lessened free political speech in this land.

Add all of that up, and throw in more, and you still get nowhere close to the demon he is portrayed by Democrats as being, and meanwhile you have left out a lot, such as his resoluteness in the face of what is likely this era's greatest challenge — terrorism — and his underreported effectiveness in getting a high percentage of his proposals through Congress. It's a better record, a Brookings scholar found, than compiled by any president since Lyndon Johnson.

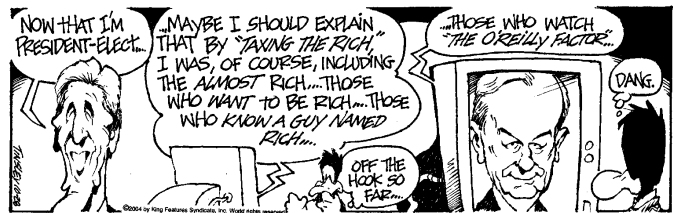
"To err is Truman," it used to be said about another president, Harry Truman, whose popularity was sea-level low in his last term in part because of a disliked war in Korea. Years passed and he was re-evaluated and, guess what — in retrospect, we can see that in many ways he was exceptional.

Bush will likewise recover from the worst being said about him, I suspect, whether he wins or loses on Nov. 2.

Jay Ambrose is director of editorial policy for Scripps Howard Newspapers.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



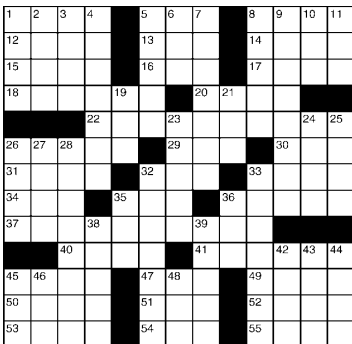
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

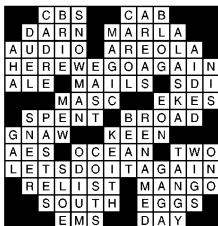
- 1 Swindle
5 "Terra!"
8 Vegan's no-no
12 Forum fashion
13 Under the weather
14 Loosen
15 Unimprovable place
16 Writer Boscaglia
17 Read bar codes
18 Sir's counterpart
20 Banshee's cry
22 Pre-Xerox replica
26 Syrup source
29 Scoot
30 "Paulo"
31 Lotion additive
32 Beetle Bailey's bed
33 Frail
34 Desire
35 Menagerie
36 Chaplain
37 Breathing aid
40 Movie producer who wed Liz Taylor
41 In layers
45 Somewhere out there
47 Venusian vessel?
49 Faction
50 Guardhouse
51 Anti
52 Arm bone
53 Either
54 Goller's prop
55 Blueprint

Down

- 1 Branch
2 Last few notes
3 Like fine wines
4 Slap the cuffs on
5 Secretary, at times
6 Milwaukee product
7 Reason to use a spare
8 Beethoven's output
9 In the envelope
10 Computer language
11 Heavy weight
19 West of Hollywood
21 "Arbor, MI
23 Witch-craft?
24 Carson's predecessor

- 25 Symbol of servitude
26 BLT enhancer
27 Haley or Trebek
28 Little girl's hairstyle
32 Lead the band
33 Hears the alarm
35 Londoner's letter
36 Omega precursor
38 Stuff your face
39 Expatriate
42 Small stream
43 Barry Humphries' "Dame"
44 Campus bigwig
45 Easy as —
46 Back
48 Adversary

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-28

CRYPTOQUIP

SVT BERNGZJGM BZEGMWR
RSOZSGW KNSSEMF QXS
GMWGW XL TLGMEMF O
QEF KOM TB VTZJR

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'M PLANNING ON STEALING SOMETHING VERY HEAVY. I REALLY HOPE I CAN CARRY IT OFF.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

Incontinence often not death with

Dear Abby: I am writing in response to the letter from "Can't Stand It in N.J.," whose boyfriend wets the bed every night. There are many misconceptions about incontinence.

Chances are he refuses to see a physician because he is embarrassed or may not understand the treatment options and resources available to him. Abby, he is not alone in this. An estimated 25 million Americans are plagued by incontinence problems.

Incontinence, if left undiagnosed and untreated, can be debilitating. It may cause the loss of independence, self-respect and healthy sexuality. But, despite these unfortunate consequences, the majority of people with incontinence — 66 percent — have never discussed the subject of urinary health with a doctor or nurse.

It's time to make people address this "taboo" subject.

The National Association for Continence (NAFC), is a nonprofit

organization whose mission is to educate the public about the causes and cures for incontinence. We offer a free packet of information, including a brochure titled "Seeking Treatment" to help prepare for a visit with a doctor to make a first visit as productive as possible.

Please encourage any of your readers with questions about incontinence to call our NAFC toll-free number (800) 252-3337. It is staffed by a full-time health educator to answer questions for callers. We also have a Web site, www.nafc.org, filled with information about incontinence, treatment and management options.

I strongly encourage "Can't Stand It" to contact NAFC for information and present it to her boyfriend so he can be educated and encouraged to seek help. Incontinence can be managed or treated — and it will allow both of them to improve their quality of

life together.

— Nancy Muller, Executive Director, NAFC

Dear Nancy: Since printing that letter, I have received letters from readers informing me that incontinence can be caused by a variety of ailments — which include allergies, spinal cord problems, a sleep disorder and kidney disease, to name a few. Most of these problems can be dealt with if a person is willing to discuss them with a medical professional.

"Can't Stand It" indicated that her boyfriend steadfastly refused to see a doctor about his problem, and she had reached the end of her rope in waking up every morning in a wet bed, so I told her it was time to say goodbye. If this was something he couldn't help, I wouldn't have been so quick to say it. However, it's hard to find sympathy for a person who is not willing to help himself.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

Dear Abby



tions.

Fight over food divides family

Dear Annie: My in-laws live 350 miles away and are very caring folks. The problem is, my mother-in-law has a major control issue with her cooking.

Mom expects us to eat and enjoy everything she makes. When we visit, she plans all our meals and gets upset if we want to eat out.

One time she forced a spoonful into our 6-year-old daughter's mouth, and when our daughter threw up at the table, Mom smacked her hard across the back of her head.

On our most recent visit, I wasn't very hungry, so I didn't put food on my plate. Mom stormed out of the dining room and refused to speak to me. I ended up having to apologize profusely for not being hungry. My 47-year-old husband has spent his entire life in fear of not eating, and he won't confront her about her attitude, so when I politely speak up, I am the bad guy.

How do I get out of this crazy, stressful battle over food?

Annie's Mailbox



— Not Hungry Daughter-In-Law

Dear Not Hungry: Smacking the back of your daughter's head really threw us over the edge. Mom is way out of line.

Encourage your child to eat what Mom prepares, but when that is not possible, tell Mom, "Sorry, Susie isn't hungry." If she persists, repeat the sentence and remove Susie's plate. If Mom becomes angry, tell Susie she can leave the table. If Mom raises a hand against your child, take your family and leave the house. Inform Mom that you will come back when she settles down. Do not ever raise your voice.

Your husband should not take his mother's side, nor should he try to placate you into letting Mom have her way. Mom will be plenty angry, but do NOT back down.

Dear Annie: When I was a

teenager, some friends spray-painted obscenities on a neighbor's garage one night when I was with them. We all were arrested. Even though I did not directly participate, I lost my part-time job and the respect of my friends and family.

I assumed this indiscretion would be quickly forgotten, but that's not what happened. People still ask, "Aren't you the guy who spray-painted Joe's garage?" even though the incident was 25 years ago. My own parents, now elderly, will sometimes bring it up, so I can never put it behind myself.

How long am I going to have to live with this? How should I respond when people bring it up?

Perplexed in Pennsylvania
Dear Perplexed: Scandal has a long memory. The best response is, "Yes, I made a terrible mistake, but it was a long time ago." Then change the subject.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sauer, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MARFE

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SHECS

LABERV

www.jumble.com

MINDOO

Answer: HIS

Yesterday's Jumbles: SHINY BERET ZINNIA PACKET

Answer: The last thing a teenager wants to be — NINETEEN

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrin

I reduced our debt by 2 million drachmas

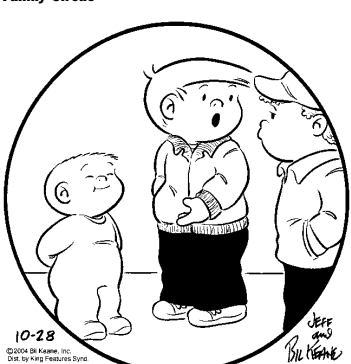


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: HIS

(Answers tomorrow)

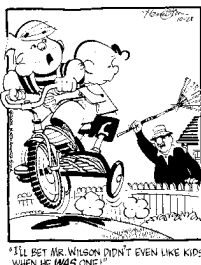
Family Circus



"My mom gives him cute pills. I just get vitamins."



Domis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



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SCOREBOARD

AFN & Radio

Thursday

AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—Boxing: Ballroom Boxing (ind.)
AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—NFL Films Game of the Week (ind.)
AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—Baseball: World Series, Game 4, Boston at St. Louis (ind.)
AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.—Baseball: World Series, Game 5, if necessary, Boston at St. Louis (ind.)

Friday

AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m.—College football: Virginia Tech at Georgia Tech.
AFN-Atlantic, AFN-Pacific, AFN-Radio, 2 a.m.—Baseball: World Series, Game 5, if necessary, Boston at St. Louis (ind.)
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Baseball: Professional Baseball: Rockies at Padres.
AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—Baseball: World Series, Game 5, if necessary, Boston at St. Louis (ind.)
AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.—Baseball: World Series, Game 5, if necessary, Boston at St. Louis (ind.)

All times are Central European Time; did indicate broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.mylife.net for more information.

Pro football

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE					
	East				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
New England	6	0	1	1.000	148 90
N.Y. Jets	5	1	0	.833	127 102
Buffalo	1	5	0	.167	77 106
Miami	1	6	0	.143	86 121
South					
Jacksonville	5	2	0	.714	122 126
Indianapolis	4	2	0	.667	183 133
Houston	3	3	0	.500	138 137
Tennessee	2	5	0	.286	124 158
North					
Pittsburgh	5	1	0	.833	136 114
Baltimore	4	2	0	.667	117 85
Cleveland	4	0	0	.429	147 147
Cincinnati	3	4	0	.333	106 139
West					
Denver	5	2	0	.714	140 100
San Diego	4	0	0	.571	177 142

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	6	0	1	1.000	171	94
N.Y. Giants	4	2	0	.667	117	100
Dallas	2	4	0	.333	107	156
Washington	2	2	0	.333	84	95
South						
Atlanta	5	2	0	.714	129	142
New Orleans	3	4	0	.429	154	191
Tampa Bay	2	5	0	.286	109	124
Carolina	1	5	0	.167	83	105
North						
Minnesota	5	1	0	.833	170	128
Detroit	4	2	0	.667	116	123
Green Bay	3	4	0	.429	178	172
Chicago	1	5	0	.167	85	108
West						
S. Louis	4	3	0	.571	158	165
Seattle	3	3	0	.500	129	101
Arizona	2	4	0	.333	112	104

Sunday's games
 Miami 31, St. Louis 13
 Baltimore 20, Buffalo 6
 Kansas City 56, Atlanta 10
 Jacksonville 27, Indianapolis 24
 Tampa Bay 19, Cleveland 7
 San Diego 17, Carolina 6
 Philadelphia 34, Cleveland 31
 New England 13, Tennessee 27
 New York 13, N.Y. Jets 7
 Green Bay 11, Dallas 29
 Arizona 25, Seattle 17
 Oakland 21, Oakland 25
 Open: Pittsburgh, Washington, San Francisco

Monday's game
 Cincinnati 21, Denver 10
Sunday, Oct. 31
 Arizona at Buffalo
 Cincinnati at Tennessee
 Green Bay at Washington
 Jacksonville at Houston
 Indianapolis at Kansas City
 Baltimore at Philadelphia
 St. Louis at Minnesota
 Carolina at Seattle
 Seattle at San Francisco
 Oakland at San Diego
 New England at Pittsburgh
 San Francisco at Chicago
 Open: Tampa Bay, St. Louis, New Orleans, Arizona

Monday, Nov. 1
 Miami at N.Y. Jets

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer playoffs
 Conference Semifinals
 (Two-leg Aggregate Score Series)
 Eastern Conference
 Columbus vs. New England
Saturday, Oct. 30
 New England 1, Columbus 0
Sunday, Oct. 31
 New England 0, Columbus 0
D.C. United vs. MetroStars
Saturday, Oct. 30
 D.C. United 0, MetroStars 0
D.C. United vs. MetroStars
Saturday, Oct. 30
 D.C. United 0, MetroStars 0

Saturday, Oct. 30
 MetroStars at D.C. United
Western Conference
 Kansas City vs. San Jose
Sunday, Oct. 31
 San Jose 2, Kansas City 0
Saturday, Oct. 30
 San Jose at Kansas City
Los Angeles vs. Colorado
Sunday, Oct. 31
 Colorado 1, Los Angeles 0
Saturday, Oct. 30
 Colorado at Los Angeles

Pro basketball

NBA preseason

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	6	1	.857	—
New York	4	3	.571	—2
New Jersey	3	4	.429	—3
Toronto	1	4	.200	—4
Boston	1	6	.143	—5
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	4	3	.567	—
Orlando	4	3	.500	—
Washington	3	3	.429	1½
Charlotte	2	5	.286	2½
Atlanta	1	5	.167	—
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	5	1	.833	—
Indiana	5	1	.833	—
Detroit	3	3	.500	—2
Milwaukee	3	3	.500	—2
Chicago	3	4	.429	2½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	5	2	.714	—
Houston	3	2	.600	1
New Orleans	3	4	.429	2
San Antonio	2	3	.400	2
Dallas	2	5	.286	3
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	5	1	.833	—
Minnesota	3	3	.500	2
Portland	3	3	.500	2
Utah	3	3	.500	2
Seattle	1	6	.143	4½

Monday's games
 Cleveland 81, Washington 93
 Chicago 100, Washington 95
 Indiana 102, Boston 94
 L.A. Lakers 117, Seattle 91
Tuesday's games
 Charlotte 82, Miami 74
 Philadelphia 91, New York 88
 New York 88, New Jersey 79
 Indiana 102, Boston 94
 San Antonio 96, Dallas 94
 Denver 102, Toronto 86
Wednesday's games
 Detroit 81, Charlotte 81
 Miami at Orlando
 Atlanta vs. Charlotte at Fayetteville, N.C.
 Chicago at Indiana
 Milwaukee at Philadelphia
 San Antonio at Houston
 Toronto at Portland
 L.A. Clippers at Golden State
Thursday's games
 Atlanta vs. Cleveland at Pittsburgh
 Utah at New York
 Philadelphia at New Jersey
 Phoenix vs. Milwaukee at Green Bay, Wis.
 Chicago at Houston
 Sacramento at Dallas
 Washington City at L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City
 Phoenix at L.A. Clippers

College football

AP Top 25 schedule

Thursday, Oct. 28
 No. 22 Virginia Tech at Georgia Tech
Friday, Oct. 29
 No. 18 Boise State at Washington State
Saturday, Oct. 30
 No. 1 Southern Cal at Washington State
 No. 1 Oklahoma at No. 20 Oklahoma State
 No. 1 Michigan at No. 10 Michigan State
 No. 4 Miami at North Carolina
 No. 5 Florida State at Maryland
 No. 20 California vs. No. 20 Arizona State
 No. 6 Texas at Colorado

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ON THE
 SPOT
 SPORTS

No. 9 Utah at San Diego State
 No. 10 Georgia vs. Florida at Jacksonville, Fla.
 No. 11 Tennessee at Rutgers
 No. 12 Michigan vs. Michigan State
 No. 15 West Virginia at Rutgers
 No. 16 Texas A&M at Texas Tech
 No. 17 Purdue at Northwestern
 No. 19 LSU vs. Vanderbilt
 No. 23 Iowa at Illinois
 No. 24 Minnesota at Indiana

Tennis

Swiss Indoors

Wednesday
 At Jakobshalle
 Basel, Switzerland
Purse: \$1,250,000 (net. Series)
Surface: Carpet-Indoor
Singles
First Round
 Goran Ivanisevic, def. Fernando Gonzalez (Ch), 6-3, 6-4
 Andre Agassi, def. Anthony D. Panatta, 6-3, 6-4
 Tommy Robredo (S), def. Stanislas Wawrinka (D), 6-3, 6-4
 Stefan Koubek, Austria, def. Paradorn Sanchitwong, Thailand, 6-7 (5), 6-3
 Bobanjin Udo, Czech Republic, def. Horia Horia, Peru, 6-1, retired
 Udo Heubner, Switzerland, def. Victor Dineanu, Romania, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4)
 Udo Heubner, Switzerland, def. Victor Dineanu, Romania, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4)
 Udo Heubner, Switzerland, def. Victor Dineanu, Romania, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4)

Tuesday
Singles
 First Round
 Goran Ivanisevic, def. Fernando Gonzalez (Ch), 6-3, 6-4
 Andre Agassi, def. Anthony D. Panatta, 6-3, 6-4
 Tommy Robredo (S), def. Stanislas Wawrinka (D), 6-3, 6-4
 Stefan Koubek, Austria, def. Paradorn Sanchitwong, Thailand, 6-7 (5), 6-3
 Bobanjin Udo, Czech Republic, def. Horia Horia, Peru, 6-1, retired
 Udo Heubner, Switzerland, def. Victor Dineanu, Romania, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4)
 Udo Heubner, Switzerland, def. Victor Dineanu, Romania, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4)
 Udo Heubner, Switzerland, def. Victor Dineanu, Romania, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4)

St. Petersburg Open

Wednesday
 At Petersburg, Russia
Purse: \$1 million (net. Series)
Surface: Hard-Indoor
Singles
First Round
 Sargis Sargsian, Armenia, def. Irakli Labadze, Georgia, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2
 Marat Safin (S), def. Alexander Peya, Austria, 7-5 (5), 6-1, 6-2
Tuesday
 Goran Ivanisevic, def. Fernando Gonzalez (Ch), 6-3, 6-4
 Andre Agassi, def. Anthony D. Panatta, 6-3, 6-4
 Tommy Robredo (S), def. Stanislas Wawrinka (D), 6-3, 6-4
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 Udo Heubner, Switzerland, def. Victor Dineanu, Romania, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4)

Next Cup schedule

Feb. 15—Daytona 500, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Dale Earnhardt Jr.)
Feb. 22—NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, Phoenix, Ariz. (Matt Kenseth)
Feb. 29—NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, Las Vegas, Nev. (Matt Kenseth)
Mar. 7—NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, Las Vegas, Nev. (Matt Kenseth)
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Timberwolves still have issues to settle

BY ANDRES YBARRA
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Timberwolves are among the favorites in the Western Conference, largely because all the key players are back from last season's team that nearly made the NBA Finals.

But with a week to go until the regular season, two of their biggest stars — Latrell Sprewell and Sam Cassell — have raised doubts about their long-term futures with the team. And Wally Szczerbiak has made it clear he wants a bigger role.

Cassell and Sprewell, who form Minnesota's "Big Three" with league MVP Kevin Garnett, want contract extensions.

Sprewell has publicly said he wants an extension before he is traded against New York or he'll ask for a sign-and-trade deal after the season or become a free agent. Cassell was upset enough about not getting an extension that he skipped the team's media day and first day of training camp.

"Me and Sprewell, we deserve extensions," Cassell said this week. "There's no other way to say it. You can't sugarcoat it."

The Big Three formed the NBA's highest-scoring trio last season and led the Wolves to the Western Conference finals, where they lost in six games to the Los Angeles Lakers. But Cassell barely played in that series because of a hip injury that caused painful back spasms.

Cassell is convinced the outcome would've been different had he been healthy.

"I know for a fact we'd be celebrating our first championship in the city right now," Cassell said.

Cassell, never one to bite his tongue, thinks the Wolves need to pay more if they want to keep him and Sprewell, who wasn't available to reporters after practice Tuesday.

Neither Sprewell's agent, Robert Gist, nor Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor immediately returned phone messages seeking comment.

Cassell's agent, Charles Tucker, couldn't immediately be reached.

Kevin McHale, Minnesota's vice president of basketball operations, said he also wants to get Sprewell an extension before the season starts. Sprewell is due to make \$14.6 million this season. Last week, he told the St. Paul Pioneer Press he doesn't want to take a pay cut, but at 34, the Wolves could be hesitant to

coach Flip Saunders declined to comment on the potential distractions.

Then there's Szczerbiak, who has made it clear he wants his starting spot back.

A foot injury sidelined him for the first 53 games last season, and the Wolves signed Trenton Hassel to take his place. Hassell made a name as a defensive specialist and earned a six-year, \$27 million contract.

But Szczerbiak is healthy again, and Saunders must decide between Szczerbiak's shooting or Hassell's defense for the starting lineup.

Hassel said he'd take a back seat to Szczerbiak if the coaches want him to.

"Whatever is best for the team," Hassell said. "The main thing is to win. If it helps the team for him to start, let him go. It doesn't really matter to me."



Minnesota Timberwolves' Wally Szczerbiak, who was sidelined by a foot injury for the first 53 games last season, wants to get back in the starting lineup.

Not so for Szczerbiak — he wants to play a lot of minutes. He came off the bench in all 28 of his appearances last season and is eager to return to his All-Star level from 2002, even if it means being traded. Szczerbiak has popped up in trade rumors for the past couple of years. The latest involved Portland and New York this offseason.

"I'll play basketball anywhere. I don't care," Szczerbiak said. "It's a business, if you get traded, no hard feelings either way, you've just got to play elsewhere."

Still, Szczerbiak — signed to a six-year, \$63 million deal last season — said Tuesday he's committed to helping the Wolves and thinks he'll be with them for the long term.

"It looks like it," he said. And that's more than Sprewell and Cassell can say.

"I'm confident. I think [Sprewell] is confident it will get done. If not, we both have got to make decisions," Cassell said.

Florida denies making contact with Spurrier

BY MARK LONG
The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley denied a report Tuesday that school officials have contacted former coach Steve Spurrier about replacing Ron Zook.

According to ESPN.com, the school contacted Spurrier to gauge his interest in returning to coach the Gators and wanted an answer in the next 24 hours.

"There's absolutely no basis to that at all. It's false," Foley said. "We've got a little time. Why would 24 hours make a difference?"

Florida fired Zook on Monday after he posted a 20-13 record in two-plus seasons — just 14 fewer losses than Spurrier had in 12 seasons. Zook will coach the final four games this season, but the search for his replacement could begin with Spurrier.

He resigned from the NFL's Washington Redskins after two seasons and could be open to returning to his alma mater.

"I'll talk about that another time," Spurrier said Monday at a charity golf event near Orlando. "I don't think there's anything that I can say that is really appropriate."

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops, Utah coach Urban Meyer and Louisville coach Bobby Petrino also could be possible replacements. Foley said he would not talk to any coaches with current jobs until after the season.

Spurrier's defensive coordinator for three seasons at Florida, Stoops said he and Spurrier had talked recently enough to know he shot a 73 during his charity round.

But Stoops declined to give details about their conversation.

"That's not for me to talk about," Stoops said Tuesday. "Whatever he wants I'm all for. Though I talk to Coach frequently, that wouldn't be appropriate for me to talk about what he's been talking about and what his feelings are."

Genetic condition forces Ga. Tech lineman to quit

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Brad Brezina feels just what might be the worst part of all.

If he wants to lift weights, go right ahead. If there's a pickup game down at the basketball court, he's in.

He just can't do the one thing he loves more than anything — play football for Georgia Tech.

"I want and ran the other day. I'm in shape. I feel good," Brezina said. "My body feels perfectly fine to go out there and practice. It's tougher when I think about it in that regard."

With a heavy heart, he has had to walk from the sport that took his father all the way to the NFL. Brezina, a sophomore who started the first four games of the season at offensive guard, had little choice after experts on both coasts diagnosed a genetic condition that causes a narrowing of the spinal cord.

If he continued to play, one good leg in the right spot could have left him paralyzed from the neck down.

"I'm not going to be stupid about this," Brezina said. "I had to look at it from all angles, but when you get reports from two experts in the field, you're not going to overlook it by any means. There's no doubt this is the right decision."

Not that it's easy to accept. Football runs in the family, most notably with his father. Greg Brezina was a linebacker good in the Atlanta Falcons in the 1960s and '70s. His son yearned to follow the same career path.

"It's been real tough," Brad

said, struggling to hold back his tears. "This is something I've had a passion for since I was a kid. It's just one of those things you grow up wanting to do."

After spending his college career on the defensive line, Brezina shifted to offense this season. He earned a starting job and seemed to have a bright future.

One jarring hit against Miami changed all that.

Brezina has watched the play on film. He was good all the right things as he prepared to block a linebacker, bend up, shoulders back — but he knew right away that something was wrong. Crumpling to the turf at Bobby Dodd Stadium, Brezina couldn't move his arms, legs for a few frightening seconds.

"It's something I would not want to do again," he said somberly.

Still, reality didn't set in immediately. Brezina regained the feeling in his limbs and wanted to go back in the game. He thought it was merely a "stinger" — a jarring of the spine that is common in football, causing temporary paralysis in extreme cases.

Wisely, the trainers recognized that his condition was more serious.

"There was a tingling in my shoulders," Brezina said. "I felt like needles were being stuck in me. That's a sign of the nerves getting bruised in the spinal cord. It's a pretty serious deal. You don't mess around with that."

It's called spinal stenosis. Doctors found that Brezina's spinal column narrows from 15 millimeters at the base of his neck to 11 millimeters at the top — a tiny but significant difference.

Pacers C Foster to miss 4-6 weeks

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers center Jeff Foster was to have hip surgery Wednesday and is expected to miss four to six weeks, further depleting the team's front court.

Foster is scheduled to undergo arthroscopic surgery on his right hip. He has been hampered by the injury since he began training camp, but didn't believe it was serious until it flared up this week.

"It's a clean-cut type thing, not a tightening thing or reattachment deal," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said Tuesday. "But it is being weird. So we'll just have to see."

Foster's emergence as a legitimate hustler and rebounder played a big role in the Pacers' success last season. He averaged 6.1 points and 7.4 rebounds in his first season as a starter.

Scott Pollard, who has looked sharp in the preseason, will fill Foster's spot in the starting lineup.

Foster's injury is the latest to hit the front court.

Briefs

Forward/center Jermaine O'Neal could be held out of the remaining preseason games with a nagging ligament strain in his left foot, and rookie David Harrison has missed time with a shoulder injury.

Carlisle said O'Neal is working his way back.

"The prescription for him at the beginning was rest," Carlisle said. "He's been shooting the last couple of days. He's got to make sure he's healthy before he plays."

Carlisle said he hoped O'Neal and the other players would be healthy before the Nov. 3 regular-season opener.

Grizzlies center Wright suspended for one game

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Memphis Grizzlies center Lorenzen Wright was suspended for one game by the NBA on Tuesday.

Wright was suspended for shov-

ing Milwaukee center Zaza Pachulia during Memphis' 97-75 exhibition victory over the Bucks last Thursday.

Wright will serve the suspension during the Grizzlies' season opener, Nov. 3 against Washington, in Memphis.

Robinson, Dalemberf demoted from Sixers' starting lineup

PHILADELPHIA — Glenn Robinson and Samuel Dalembert have been demoted from the Philadelphia 76ers' starting lineup, coach Jim O'Brien announced Tuesday as he put the first stamp on his new team.

O'Brien named veterans Aaron McKie and Marc Jackson and rookie Andre Iguodala to the starting lineup. McKie beat out Willie Green to be the starter at shooting guard. Iguodala gets Robinson's old spot at small forward, and Jackson takes over from Dalembert at center.

Allen Iverson, who will play point guard rather than shooting guard, and Kenny Thomas will be the other starters for Philadelphia's season-opener Nov. 3 against Boston.

HOME TEAM

A WEEKLY LOOK AT LOCAL SPORTS

Running one step at a time

Lakenheath's Billington has eyes on improvement, not victory, in European meet

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — Winning means little to Greg Billington. That's not why he runs.

He runs, he says, simply to improve, to lower his time. He runs to stretch his own limit. To test his ability.

Too bad.

Because Lakenheath, a sophomore cross country runner at Lakenheath High School, is probably going to spend a lot of time at the front of the pack.

After all, that's why the stopwatch was invented.

"He has a very good chance of winning the Europeans," Lakenheath coach John Gilmore said. "Last year he did well as a freshman (finishing fourth)."

Billington, 15, downplays his coach's confidence.

"It's my sophomore year," he said. "I don't really care about winning as much as getting faster and getting better."

He gives the nod for victory to runners at Reinheim School in Germany. Denny Edwards and Parker Cowles, he said, should be the favorites.

But Billington, son of Karen and Garrett Billington, is likely to figure in the final standings. The improvement he has shown since he began running as a freshman is phenomenal, his coach said.

Gilmore said Billington's best time last year for the 5-kilometer cross country course — about three miles — was 17 minutes, 24 seconds. Already this year, Billington has been under 17 minutes in every race, including one at 15.52.

The coach credits the improvement to a discipline that is second to none.

"He's just a super worker. He's got a great work ethic," Gilmore said.

Billington began running cross country

European cross country championships

Where: Tompkins Barracks, Schwezingen, Germany.
When: 12:30 p.m. Saturday.
What's at stake: Individual and divisional team championships in Division I, II, III and IV.
Admission: Free.

last year after growing bored with track, where he ran around and around the same oval track.

"It gets kind of old," he said.

He enjoys stretching his legs across the countryside, just as his older brother, Brian, now in college, used to do. Billington was pleasantly surprised last year to show some running ability. He was determined to improve.

One way he did that was to pedal a bicycle from Land's End, England's most southwestern point, to John O'Groats, at the tip of Scotland, a journey of roughly 900 miles.

He was accompanied by his mother, who rode a bicycle, while his father trailed along in a van, unable to ride due to an injury. Billington said he's not sure the effort helped his running, but it is a distinct possibility.

"Biking 900 miles a day has to do something," he said.

In addition to biking, he swims several times a week during the running season and every day during the off-season.

In fact, he hopes to combine those three endeavors and compete in triathlons. He has hopes of making it to Olympics in the event.

"I'm trying to get into some triathlon clubs with British teams," he said.

Billington has many miles to run, bike and swim before he becomes an Olympian, but he is determined to make it a reality.

"I don't want to think I could have been there and I didn't try for it," he said.

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensen@mail.estripes.com



Courtesy of Maj. Francisco G. Hamon

Lakenheath sophomore Greg Billington, whose best time this season is 15 minutes, 52 seconds, finished fourth in last year's European cross country championship meet.

This week's schedule

Cross country

Saturday

European championships hosted by Tompkins Barracks, Schwezingen, Germany, 12:30 p.m. Divisional, individual titles at stake.

Football

Saturday

Division I semifinals: No. 4 Würzburg Wolves (2-4) at No. 1 Heideberg Lions (6-0), 1 p.m. at Patrick Henry Village; No. 3 Ramstein Royals (3-3) at No. 2 Wiesbaden Warriors (5-1), 1 p.m. at school in Heideberg housing.

Division II semifinals: IL-North runner-up SHAPE Spartans (5-1) at IL-South champion Naples Wildcats (5-1), 1 p.m. at high school; IL-South runner-up Hanau Panthers (4-2) at IL-North champion International School of Brussels Raiders (6-0), 1 p.m. at high school.

Division III semifinals: IL-0 runner-up Bamberg Barons (3-3) at IL-C champion Ansbach Cougars (5-0), 1 p.m. at high school in Katterbach housing.

Division IV semifinals: IL-0 champion Baumholder Bucks (5-2), 1 p.m. at Minck Field, S.M. Barracks.

Tennis

Thursday-Saturday

European championships at Tennis Central Europe Vilis, Wiesbaden-Darstadt, 9 a.m. each day.

Volleyball

Saturday

Naples and Sigonella at American Over-

seas School of Rome; Bitburg and Patch at Black Forest Academy; Baumholder and Gießen at Brussels; Ansbach and Bamberg at Heideberg; Frankfurt International School and Wiesbaden at Katterbach housing; Heideberg and Mannheim at Lakenheath; Altonbury and Merweth Hill at London Central; Hanau and Ramstein at SHAPE; Aviano and Livorno at Vicenza; AFNORTH and Vöcklabruck at Würzburg.

Game of the week

What: European tennis championships.

Where: Tennis Central Europe, Wiesbaden-Darstadt. Exit: autobahn A-66, take exit 1, turn right, follow traffic circle through town on exit road toward "rive tram." When road ends, turn left and keep bearing right through traffic circle on edge of village. Center lies in fields on left just past town limits.

When: Thursday-Saturday. Play begins at 9 a.m. daily.

What's at stake: Individual European championships and team titles in Divisions I, II and III.

Top seeds: Jun Kude of International School of Brussels, the defending boys' champion, and Lakenheath's freshman Esquerra, who is looking for his first win. Since Alkin in 2000, the field into the annual championships on the indoor carpets of the Vilis complex.

Admission: There is no admission charge. Restaurant in complex provides picture-window view of many courts.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Rashad Taylor

Football
Baumholder

Last week: Taylor, a 5-foot-10, 190-pound sophomore slotback/running back, carried the ball 21 times for 236 yards Saturday in the Bucs' 40-29 victory over visiting Rota in the quarterfinals of the European Division III playoffs.

Taylor, rushing for three TDs, catching a pass for a fourth and running in a two-point conversion, accounted for 26 of the points that put Baumholder into Saturday's semifinals against Hohenfels. His two fourth-quarter touchdowns brought Baumholder back from a 29-26 deficit.

"Rashad is a superb athlete who is dedicated to the game of football," said Baumholder coach Carter Hollenbeck about his sophomore, who has rushed 44 times for 417 yards and scored seven TDs in his team's six games so far. Despite those good numbers, Hollenbeck said, Taylor never forgets that football's a team game.

"When asked about his success on the football field," Hollenbeck said, "he immediately gives credit to the offensive line and blocking backs. Rashad is not looking for individual success, but rather focuses on team goals and achievements."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

Jackie Esquerra

Tennis
Lakenheath

Last week: Esquerra, a freshman, capped her first varsity season by defeating Marianna Vertudue of Alconbury and Tiffany Romero of London Central on Saturday to complete an unbeaten run at No. 1 singles and earn the top seed for this weekend's European championships in Wiesbaden-Nordenstadt.

"She has all of the individual skills she needs," Lakerheath coach Darryl Brock said. "What she's picked up this season are the mental and social skills of playing as part of a team."

According to Brock, Esquerra's closest brush with defeat this season was a 6-2, 6-2 conquest of ISB's Priscilla Roney on Oct. 2.

"There were a lot of duce games," Brock recalled. "It was closer than I looked."

Brock believes Esquerra, who says her serve and backhand are the strongest parts of her game, will not be intimidated when she plays her first European tournament this weekend.

"She'll be OK," Brock said. "She loves playing tough matches. We played at Wiesbaden (Oct. 16), and I made sure she played there. So, she's got some more experience on the carpet today."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.



Titans' gameplan crumbling '04

Injuries, player moves pointing toward rebuilding for Tennessee

BY TERESA M. WALKER
The Associated Press

Analysis

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Six hours before kickoff, doctors removed Shad Meier's appendix, leaving the Tennessee Titans with only one healthy tight end: rookie Ben Troupe.

That forced coaches to scrap all plays with two tight ends, a staple of the offense, and drop plays specially designed for Troupe to use his physical skills and minimize his inexperience.

After the last-minute changes, the Titans lost for the first time to the team that replaced them in Houston, the Texans.

"Every week, there's something wrong injury-wise, and it's very frustrating," Steve McNair said.

The Titans thought they could sneak under the salary cap this year, rely on the draft to restock the roster and avoid the rebuilding of teams in similar situations faced.

So much for those plans. Now the franchise that entered 2004 tied for most wins since 1999 is trying to salvage a season that started with Super Bowl dreams and is being undermined by injuries and inexperience.

"It's kind of a new situation for us," coach Jeff Fisher admitted. General manager Floyd Reese took over this franchise in 1994, forced to replace a playoff team torn apart by the NFL's new salary cap. He watched his Houston Oilers go 2-14 that season.

Since 1995, Reese and Fisher have worked with a simple philosophy: build through the draft, identify a core of top players each

season, let pricey veterans leave and rely on the coaching staff to teach the youngsters.

The strategy led to a 56-24 record from 1999 to 2003, with an AFC championship and playoff berths in four of the five seasons.

But the Titans, crunched by the cap, made too many wrong moves this offseason, and they are paying for it.

They let Jevon Kearse and Robaire Smith leave for big money in Philadelphia and Houston, respectively, and tried to replace them by drafting five defensive linemen.

Kearse now has four sacks in Philadelphia and has been a defensive catalyst for the Eagles (6-0). His Tennessee replacements have been so ineffective Fisher had to switch Kevin Carter back from tackle to end.

The Titans also traded receiver Justin McCareins to the New York Jets for a second-round draft pick. But that left defensive end Travis LaBoy, sat out the first three games with injuries before getting two sacks last weekend in a 20-3 loss at Minnesota.

Reese did replace retiring tight end Frank Wycheck by re-signing



Tennessee Titans WR Eddie Berlin (82) throws down a cup of ice as he sits with CB Michael Waddell (36) and WR Derrick Mason (85) in the closing moments of their 20-10 loss to the Houston Texans on Oct. 17.

Erron Kinney and Meier. But the Titans released their leading career rusher, Eddie George, leaving a leadership vacuum that has yet to be filled.

George's replacement, Chris Brown, has been the only bright spot on offense, but now opponents are game-planning to stop him.

And there's all the injuries.

Outside linebacker Peter Sirmon tore left knee ligaments on the third day of training camp, becoming one of four Titans lost for the season. Four others have missed

at least one start. They had 14 players on the injury report last week, forcing them to play two rookies on the offensive line — with McNair already banged up.

They also can't stop hurting themselves.

The Titans have the second most penalties in the NFL, 53, and only Oakland has more yards in penalties (462-432). Pro Bowl receiver Derrick Mason yanked off his helmet in anger after a late incompletion in the Oct. 17 loss to Houston. Right tackle Fred Miller wiped out a key fourth-down conversion at the Minnesota 2 by pushing Kenelchi Udezue for what he thought was a late hit last Sunday.

But even then, Tennessee might not be 2-5 for the first time since Fisher's first full season in 1995 if McNair was healthy enough to carry the offense.

Hobbled by a bruised chest that put him in the hospital last month and has forced him out of three games, McNair has only shown flashes of the quarterback who was the NFL's most accurate passer in 2003. McCareins has been missed, and McNair hasn't been able to stretch the field with 6-foot-4 speedster Tyrone Calico

out for the year (left knee). That leaves defenses double-teaming Mason and the remaining receivers either running the wrong route or dropping the ball.

McNair just wants to rest and heal up, and the Titans should let him do just that with their bye sandwiched between home games with Cincinnati (2-4) and Chicago (1-5).

When the Titans started 1-4 in 2002, Fisher ordered some veterans to answer questions from the media during his weekly news conference. That team rebounded and played in the AFC championship game.

This year, Fisher hasn't publicly criticized anyone, staying busy keeping players from pointing fingers. He is the picture of optimism.

"I don't think you can do them justice by having a different expectation," he said.

Well, maybe. But the team's scouts might want to get ready for the Titans' highest draft pick in a decade.

Big-play offense big difference for unbeaten Eagles

BY ROB MAADDI
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb drops back, throws the ball downfield and watches Terrell Owens, or Todd Pinkston or Freddie Mitchell make a catch for another big gain.

That's what has become of the Philadelphia Eagles' version of the West Coast offense. Gone are the dunks and dunks, replaced with deep passes that stretch the field and produce quick scores.

Through six games, the Eagles have 28 plays of 20 yards or longer, including 10 plays of 40 yards or more. Last year, they had 57 plays of 20 yards or more and 12 plays of 40 yards or longer. In 2002, they had 54 plays of 20 yards or more and just 10 plays of 40 yards or longer.

They won 12 games each of the last two seasons, but lost the NFC

championship game at home both years, scoring just 13 points combined in the two defeats. The Eagles are 6-0 this season, hoping to reach the conference title game for the fourth straight season.

Their high-powered offense finally might get them to the Super Bowl.

"It's very hard to drive the field and it is very hard to go 14, 15, or 16 plays," offensive coordinator Brad Childress said, explaining the offense's seemingly new philosophy. "Somewhere something big has to happen for you. If you are not swinging that bat or looking down the field or calling a play that has the chance to go down the field, you have no chance."

The addition of Owens is the main reason the Eagles are having so much success connecting on big plays. The four-time Pro Bowl wide receiver has nine

catches of at least 20 yards and six receptions for 40 yards or longer.

Owens caught touchdown passes of 39 and 40 yards in Sunday's 34-31 overtime victory in Cleveland. He also has TD catches of 20, 45 and 29 yards among his eight scoring receptions this season.

"Our mind-set right from training camp has been aggressive," Owens said. "That's what Coach Reid has often tried to instill in us. That's because of the weapons we have on offense."

When Owens becomes the focus of the defense, Pinkston, Mitchell or tight ends Chad Lewis and L.J. Smith often come open, creating opportunities for big gains.

Pinkston caught a 65-yard pass on the first play against the Browns, and also has a 53-yard reception this season. Mitchell had

a 48-yard catch earlier in the season and nearly caught a long TD pass against the Browns. Smith's longest catch is 27 yards and No. 4 wideout Greg Lewis has a 24-yard reception.

"When you have a guy like T.O., it opens up a lot of opportunities for other guys as well," McNabb said.

A four-time Pro Bowl quarterback, McNabb came into the season with a career passer rating of 79.3, a completion percentage of 57, two four-TD games and five 300-yard games.

He already has thrown four TDs twice and has three 300-yard performances this season. His completion percentage is 65.7, and his quarterback rating of 105.6 is third in the NFL behind Daunte Culpepper (124.0) and Peyton Manning (116.2).

Overall, McNabb has thrown for 1,753 yards, 13 TDs and three interceptions, and run for two scores.



Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens (81) has six receptions of at least 40 yards and eight TD catches this season.

Cardinals are frightful of baseball's biggest stage

St. Louis has unraveled after season of success

BY BERNIE MIKLASZ

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Commentary

ST. LOUIS — From the St. Louis view, all of the most likely possibilities made sense. Locally the hope and the belief was that the Cardinals would win a competitive World Series, but no one of sound mind would be surprised to see the Red Sox prevail. Win or lose, we were in for a show. This World Series featured two traditional old-school teams representing two celebrated baseball towns. This World Series would be close, and it would be colorful, and it would be good for baseball.

Only one scenario seemed impossible: that the Cardinals would come out on the big stage and freeze. No, not this year, not in a third of the years they have all. We never imagined that the Cardinals would play so hard and come so far, only to embarrass themselves. That they'd go down so quickly after a summer of fiery pride and purpose, after an early autumn of charging back to win the National League Championship Series, and after winning 112 games by playing baseball the right way, the Cardinal way.

On a dank Tuesday night at Busch Stadium, under an eerie Edgar Allan Poe moon, the Cardinals became ungloved, and their season unraveled, and we did not quite believe what we were seeing. In a humiliating 4-1 victory over the befuddled home nine, the Red Sox all but ripped down the decorative World Series bunting at Busch and replaced it with funeral crepe.

The Red Sox lead the Series 3-0. The Cardinals are down to two game promises that the Sox can't keep. In an odd twist, the

Cardinals will pull inspiration from these very same Red Sox, who beat all odds and rearranged the order of the baseball universe by erasing a 3-0 deficit to shock the Yankees with a miracle comeback in the American League Championship Series.

"We have to fight back," left fielder Reggie Sanders said. "This is a team that has been tough all year at coming from behind. This thing isn't over until the last out. It's hard to believe when you're down 0-3, but it isn't over."

Officially, it won't be over until the Red Sox complete the formality of winning another game, and we see the riot police ring the streets around Fenway Park to prevent Boston from burning down.

Cardinals fans are undoubtedly dazed, wondering what happened to the magical season. Tuesday was supposed to be the first night of the comeback. Instead, it became the beginning of the end.

The highlight was the ceremonial first pitch, with Stan Musial tossing the baseball to Bob Gibson.

If only "The Man" were 25 years old again, just like 1946, when the Cardinals edged Boston in seven games.

If only Gibby were 31 again, just like 1967, when he won three games to lead the Cardinals to a seven-game triumph over the Red Sox.

After Musial and Gibson left our field of dreams, the nightmare began.

On the national stage, the Cardinals turned into Ashlee Simpson.

Cardinals players ran into outs on the bases with knucklehead lapses, betraying the fundamental intelligence that made them an admired thinking-fan's team over the past seven months.

In the first inning, Larry Walker tagged up on a shallow fly ball to left field and was thrown out at the plate by Manny Ramirez. But don't heap the abuse on Walker; he decided to bolt when Albert Pujols, who had been stationed on second base, suddenly broke for third, apparently unaware that Ramirez had made the catch. Pujols would have been doubled off, anyway, so Walker took a shot at scoring. It was actually a heads-up play by Walker.

But in the third inning, the Cardinals made a whopper, a Buckner.

With Cardinals pitcher Jeff Suppan on third and the Red Sox Suppan back and conceding a run, Suppan inexplicably stayed put instead of following third-base coach Jose Oquendo's emphatic orders to go. The confusion cost the Cardinals dearly and put this World Series on an irreversible track. Suppan was thrown out by first baseman David Ortiz when he tried to scramble back to third.

Instead of allowing a run, the Red Sox had a gift double play.

How could that be?

"I shouted, 'Go, go, go!'"

Oquendo said. "And Jeff must have thought I said, 'No, no, no.'"

Right then, right there, the energy went out of the Cardinals and their 2004 season.

The big guns of Pujols, Scott Rolen and Jim Edmonds remained silent and unthreatening. Through three games, the MVPs have five hits in 33 at-bats (.151) with one RBI. They're hitless in



Boston Red Sox third baseman Bill Mueller tags out St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Jeff Suppan after Suppan inexplicably returned to third base on a ground ball in Game 3 of the World Series. St. Louis, winner of 105 regular season games, has looked overmatched in the World Series.

11 at-bats with runners in scoring position. Rolen and Edmonds are one for 22, and the hit came on a bunt. And if we include No. 6 hitter Reggie Sanders in accounting, the 3-4-5-6 spots in the St. Louis lineup are five for 42, or .119.

This isn't a slump; it's a plague. And with the Cardinals' more menacing batters reduced to splinters, Red Sox starter Pedro Martinez cruised through the once-fearful lineup without resistance, retiring the last 14 he faced in seven shutout innings.

Cardinals fans repeatedly booed the home team.

Boisterous Boston fans showed up for Game 3 in substantial numbers and made their voices heard, chanting to their heroes, raising beer cups as if to salute the imminent end to the so-called Curse of the Bambino, turning Busch into

an auxiliary Fenway Park for Red Sox Nation.

A local prominent athlete turned against the city he competes in.

Blues hockey forward Keith Tkachuk appeared on Fox during an in-game interview wearing full Red Sox gear and flaunted his devotion to Boston.

The Cardinals are going quietly, disappearing into the mist.

They've never led in this Series. They've scored two meaningless runs in the last 14 innings. You know the karma has changed when Ramirez and Ortiz are making defensive games.

What a downer for Cardinals fans.

What a stunning surrender by the Cardinals.

And now we know, just a little bit, why Red Sox fans felt from 1919 through 2003.

Independent panel to investigate fan death in Boston

The Associated Press

BOSTON — An independent panel led by a former U.S. attorney will investigate the death of a woman who was shot by police using pellet guns to subdue a crowd of rowdy baseball fans.

Police Commissioner Kathleen M. O'Toole announced the investigation Tuesday. Virginia Snelgrove, an Emerson College junior, was killed last week when she was hit in the eye by a pepper gas pellet during a raucous street celebration that began after the Red Sox won the American League pennant.

Pepper balls, fired from guns similar to paintball guns, are meant to help police control large groups without causing injury.

The Boston Globe reported Wednesday that two of the officers who fired pepper balls into the crowd were not trained to use the weapons.

The manufacturer of the guns, FN Herstal, did train 29 Boston officers to use the weapons, said Buckley Mills, the company's deputy director of law enforcement sales, marketing, and training. Mills said officers are repeatedly told never to target a person's head or heart.

The Globe quoted two anonymous sources, including an officer involved with police weapons training and an individual

briefed on the investigation, as saying Deputy Superintendent Robert O'Toole, who is not related to the commissioner, fired at a group of students who were climbing the gears behind Fenway Park's left field wall.

Robert O'Toole has not responded to repeated calls by The Associated Press seeking comment. His lawyer, Timothy J. Burke, gave the Globe a statement saying O'Toole was "personally devastated that the actions of the Boston police played any role in causing this tragedy and bringing such grief to her family."

The commissioner said the independent commission will be headed by former U.S. Attorney Donald K. Stern, who prosecuted mob figures and pursued a tax-evasion case against former state House Speaker Charles Flaherty.

Top bid for Bonds' 700th HR more than \$800,000

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds' 700th home run ball brought a top bid of \$804,129 Wednesday after a 10-day online auction.

The ball had received 240 offers by the time Overstock.com closed the bidding. The identity of the top bidder, nicknamed "bonmaster," was not immediately made public.

MLB briefs

Steve Williams of Pacifica got the ball after a scramble in the left-center field bleachers at SBC Park on Sept. 17 — a mad dash that has fattened his wallet but also landed him in court. Timothy Murphy has sued Williams, contending he should get the ball because he locked it behind his knees while at the bottom of a scum before Williams swiped it.

A San Francisco judge refused to hold up the sale, freeing Williams to go to auction. Lawyers for Murphy said they are continuing with their suit, and are seeking the proceeds from the ball's sale as damages.

Steinbrenner summons executives

TAMPA, Fla. — Yankees owner George Steinbrenner summoned his top executives to Florida for meetings Tuesday, less than a week after New York became the first major league team to waste a 3-0 lead in a postseason series.

Five Yankees vice presidents met among themselves during the afternoon at the team's spring training complex, then were scheduled to attend a night meeting with Steinbrenner, team president Randy Levine and general manager Brian Cashman.

New York is expected to pursue outfielder Carlos Beltran after he becomes a free agent and to add pitchers. Former Yankees minor leaguers Eric Milton and Carl Pavano are among those available.

In addition, the Yankees could resume talks with Arizona about acquiring left-hander Randy Johnson.

Edgar Martinez wins Clemente Award

ST. LOUIS — Retiring Seattle Mariners designated hitter Edgar Martinez won the Roberto Clemente Award for excellence on the field and in the community.

Martinez, who spent all 18 of his major league seasons with the Mariners, has been involved with a nearly a dozen charities and nonprofit organizations.

The award is named after the former Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder, who died in a plane crash New Year's Eve 1972 on a flight to deliver relief supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua.

Red Sox, Cubs to meet in 2005

CHICAGO — Call it the Cursed Series. Or the Bambino vs. the Billy Goat.

The Chicago Cubs will host the Boston Red Sox for a three-game series June 10-12 next season, the teams' first meeting since the 1918 World Series, won by the Red Sox. It also will be Boston's first trip to Wrigley Field.

Steelers downplay showdown with Pats

Cowher: 'There is a lot more left after this game'

BY ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Ask the Pittsburgh Steelers about the New England Patriots' NFL record 21-game winning streak, and it's likely they will turn the question around.

What about their own four-game winning streak since rookie Ben Roethlisberger replaced injured Tommy Maddox at quarterback?

With the Steelers (5-1) a game up on the favored Ravens (4-2) in the AFC North and 10 games remaining, the Steelers understand the dangers of focusing too much attention on one regular-season game — even one that could bring an end to the Patriots' run.

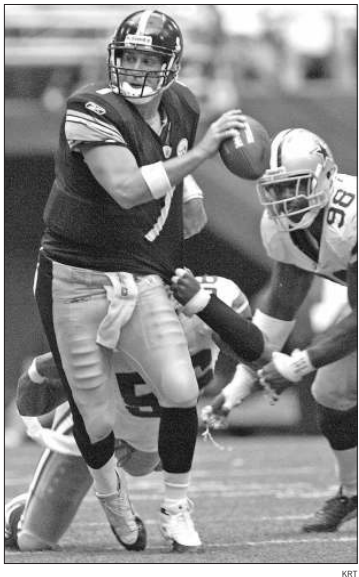
That's why the Steelers are taking a low-key approach into Sunday's game in Pittsburgh, even if winning would substantially increase the national profile of a team that went 6-10 last season.

"We can't get too caught up and enamored with what they've done," coach Bill Cowher said Tuesday. "If we play our game, minimize the mistakes and try to seize some opportunities, hopefully it will fall the right way and we'll have an opportunity to win. We have to have to be on top of our game to win this."

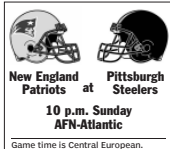
Or, exactly how they have been since Roethlisberger took over.

Certainly, the opposition has been suspect — the combined record of their beaten opponents is 10-23 — but that doesn't minimize how well Roethlisberger has played and how quickly he has settled in.

Roethlisberger wasn't expected



Ben Roethlisberger (7), 4-0 as Pittsburgh's starting quarterback, expects to get plenty of pressure and different looks from New England's defense on Sunday. The Patriots have won 21 consecutive games.



ed to play much, if at all, this season, yet is fourth in passer rating behind Daunte Culpepper, Peyton Manning and Donovan McNabb. Roethlisberger's 69 percent completion rate isn't that far off the NFL record of 70.55 by Cincinnati's Ken Anderson in 1982, and his ability to make plays while on the move has added a dimension to Pittsburgh's offense.

Just like the Steelers' offense is interested in learning how far he's come, he's likely to find out as the Steelers meet the NFL's only two remaining unbeaten, the Patriots and the Eagles (6-0), on successive Sundays in Pittsburgh.

Roethlisberger has been warned by teammates what to expect from Patriots coach Bill Belichick of what — namely, a whole lot of defense — has seen before.

"I'm sure there will be something [different] he will see," Cowher said. "They'll give us some things we'll have to adjust to, but we can't get too caught up in what they do. We have to establish our own play, play smart, control the clock and make some third downs."

The Steelers found out three seasons ago how confusing the Patriots' defense can be to an experienced quarterback. Then, Pittsburgh was a big favorite in the AFC championship game, only to have a confused Kordell Stewart throw three interceptions during a 24-17 New England victory that led to the first of the Patriots' two Super Bowl championships in three seasons.

Wide receiver Hines Ward still remembers how the Steelers' offense scurried to adjust on the fly as the Patriots repeatedly gave them defensive looks they didn't expect and didn't practice for.

"I'm sure with Ben, they will have some special package for him," Ward said. "But we can't put it all on Ben's shoulders. We can't say, 'You've got to pass the ball for us to win.'"

Just like the Steelers won't say they've made their season should they end the Patriots' streak.

"Sure you get excited about (the game), and I'm not going to downplay that. There's nothing to downplay," Cowher said. "It's a big game. It's why you're in this game, to play in games like this. But there is a lot more left after this game. Nothing will be accomplished or defined with this game."

Meanwhile, Maddox (torn right elbow tendon) is throwing lightly for the first time since being injured Sept. 19, but is not close to being ready to practice. Inside linebacker Kendrick Bell, out all season with ankle and groin injuries, is expected to practice Wednesday and might play Sunday.

NFL statistics

AFC										NFC									
Individual leaders					Team leaders					Individual leaders					Team leaders				
Week 7					Week 7					Week 7					Week 7				
Quarterbacks					Quarterbacks					Quarterbacks					Quarterbacks				
Player	Att	Yds	TD	Int	Player	Att	Yds	TD	Int	Player	Att	Yds	TD	Int	Player	Att	Yds	TD	Int
Manning, Ind.	113	78	977	3	Culpepper, Min.	217	159	1949	19	Tomlinson, San Diego	217	159	1949	19	Brady, New England	217	159	1949	19
Roethlisberger, Pitt.	113	78	977	3	McKinnis, Min.	188	136	1216	9	Harrison, Den.	188	136	1216	9	Brees, S.D.	188	136	1216	9
Carr, Hou.	175	112	841	8	Harrison, Den.	188	136	1216	9	Ratley, S.F.	188	136	1216	9	Brady, New England	188	136	1216	9
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Ravens All-Pro Ogden sidelined with leg injury

The Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Baltimore Ravens tackle Jonathan Ogden is expected to miss three to four weeks with a pulled left hamstring, although the NFL's All-Pro player intends to shorten his absence by adhering to a rigorous rehabilitation program.

"We say three to four weeks, but they'll see," Ogden said Wednesday. "Doing different things, who knows, maybe I can get back sooner than expected. I'm pushing to get healthy as soon as possible."

Ogden is listed as questionable for Sunday's game against the Philadelphia Eagles, but he said there's no way he can play.

The Ravens will also be without All-Pro running back Jamal Lewis, who will finish his two-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy. Baltimore also will likely play without Pro Bowl tight end Todd Heap, who has been sidelined since the second week of the season with a sprained ankle.

The 6-foot-9, 345-pound Ogden, injured during the fourth quarter of Sunday's 20-6 victory over Buffalo, has played in all but one game since the beginning of the 2001 season. He missed this year's opener in Cleveland with a knee injury — a game Baltimore lost 20-3. He had never a hamstring, so he's uncertain how long he will be sidelined.

"People who have had them says it takes a little while to get back. I'll just see where I go with it," he said. "My goal is to be able to get back as fast as possible. Never having done this before, I don't really know what the timetable is."

Eagles RB Westbrook questionable with rib injury
PHILADELPHIA — Running back Brian Westbrook has a cracked rib and is questionable

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See Friday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league.)
Delester DT Tim Brown (back) out of rest of season.
Panthers DE Foster (broken collarbone) out for rest of season.

for the Eagles' game on Sunday against Baltimore.

The rib injury was revealed on the first X-ray, but more tests revealed a small crack of the first rib, Eagles head trainer Kirk Burkholder said Wednesday. The normal recovery time for that kind of injury is four to six weeks, but Westbrook won't necessarily be out that long, Burkholder said. Westbrook, Philadelphia's leading rusher, was hurt during the fourth quarter of the Eagles' overtime victory against Cleveland. He leads the Eagles with 458 yards rushing. He also has 31 catches for 249 yards.

Bills RB McGahee says he's starting vs. Cards

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Buffalo Bills running back Willis McGahee told a national radio network on Tuesday that he expects to get the second start of his NFL career when Buffalo hosts Arizona on Sunday.

Without providing details as to what he's been informed by the team, McGahee made the announcement on James Brown Sporting News Radio.

"Yes, I will be starting this game," McGahee said in a tape of the show replayed by the network for The Associated Press. "Like I say, when the opportunity comes, I'm just going to take advantage of it."

The Bills were unavailable for comment. Coach Mike Mularkey is expected to address lineup changes during his news conference on Wednesday.

The Bills (1-5) have yet to score 21 points in a game this season and have no rushing touchdowns. McGahee, Buffalo's 2003 first-round draft pick, would be



KRT

Buffalo's 2003 first-round draft choice Willis McGahee had 111 yards rushing against Miami two weeks ago in his first NFL start.

starting ahead of fourth-year veteran Travis Henry, who struggled in Buffalo's 20-6 loss at Baltimore last weekend. McGahee finished with 16 carries for 58 yards, while Henry had seven carries for 27 yards.

Krenzel to start for Bears

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Rookie Craig Krenzel will make his first NFL start Sunday night for the Chicago Bears when they face the San Francisco 49ers at Soldier Field.

Krenzel played the second half of last week's 19-9 loss to Tampa Bay after relieving Jonathan Quinn and completed nine of 19 passes for 69 yards with an interception. He guided the Bears to their only touchdown.

Broncos RB Griffin out for season with ACL tear

DENVER — Denver running back Quentin Griffin is out for the year.

The team placed Griffin on injured reserve Wednesday, two days after he tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee during a 23-10 loss at Cincinnati.

In six games, the second-year back from Oklahoma rushed for 311 yards on 85 carries (3.7) and two touchdowns. He set a franchise record for most yards rushing in a season opener when he ran for 156 yards and two scores against Kansas City.

However, Griffin lost the starting job to Reuben Droughs after fumbles in consecutive games.

Favre's wife to undergo breast cancer treatment

The Associated Press

GULFPORT, Miss. — The wife of Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre was diagnosed with breast cancer, more bad news in a year full of heartache for the family.

Deanna Favre was recently released from Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York after undergoing a lumpectomy, Bonita Favre, the quarterback's mother, told The Sun Herald on Monday.

Deanna Favre will undergo chemotherapy treatments that could last up to five months and is expected to make a full recovery, Bonita Favre said.

The Packers had no comment on the matter, and Brett Favre was unavailable Tuesday. He usually addresses the media on Wednesday.

In December, Brett's father, Irvin, died from a heart attack. Deanna's brother, Casey Tynes, 24, was killed three weeks ago in

an ATV accident on Brett Favre's property near his home in Oak Grove.

Favre was told about his wife's cancer on Oct. 14 and he left practice to be with his family for a day before the Packers' game against Detroit on Oct. 17.

"Brett was relieved to learn that the situation is not as bad as it could have been," Deanna's brother-in-law, Scott Favre said. "We think that they got (all of the cancer) out."

Deanna Favre runs the Brett Favre Forward Foundation, which has raised more than \$1 million for disadvantaged or disabled children in Wisconsin and Mississippi.

"The family has been through a great deal and we will get through this," Bonita Favre said. "We would like to thank everyone for the prayers and support. We're a strong family and with the help of the Lord, we'll get through this."

Against Colts, Vermeil shuns revenge factor

By Doug Tucker

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Dick Vermeil would prefer not to hear the "R" word — you know, "revenge" — tossed around Arrowhead Stadium this week.

Yes, the 38-31 playoff loss to Indianapolis on Jan. 11 was one of the most disappointing in team history. Yes, the Colts did not beat him to punt once while running the Chiefs' 13-3 regular-season campaign, which had earned the team home-field advantage in the playoffs.

And yes, Peyton Manning and the Colts will be back in town Sunday.

But Vermeil would never call it a revenge game for his team.

"I'm not much on using those kind of (motivators). I try to use things that are more appropriate to the time, what makes the

difference this week," Vermeil said Tuesday.

To me, true motivation of a football team is a never-ending process. There are certain things that stimulate it a little more one week than the other. But real deep team motivation is more a chemistry of a football team and the kind of players you have on it and the environment they're in and how they work together and how they care about each other. Then it becomes more consistent."

Nevertheless, beating the Colts (4-2) would give fans something to enjoy while beating the Chiefs (2-4) closer to Sunday.

Vermeil does not deny the bitter loss to the Colts was on the minds of his coaches and players throughout the offseason.

"That game left a real sour taste in our mouths," said safety Jerome Woods.



Top Scores for Week 7

176	acoi3269
172	TIGER
160	Imagrun88
156	BigRedOneAMLO
154	mukat
154	BIG DADDY
152	Disco77
152	Spartacus
152	Imibo1
150	Eddie the Q

8 CO 47th fsh
RAF Moleworth
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Leighton Barracks
Yokosuka
Smith Barrack
32nd Signal Battalion
FOB EUCOM
Yongsu Seoul
615th MP

1194	giants1
1194	Chickbowwow
1152	Jaguar One
1136	STEELFROGWOOD
1136	Jack58
1132	TPHilly
1126	Allisond
1126	Dick
1124	Joe Corleone
1120	That Guy

hbc 2/37 ar
726 GMS
DoDDs
MAG-12
422 ABS RAF Croughton
Kadena
18 CES
Camp Zama
Mikasa
Kadena AB, Japan

See websites for official game rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

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Best Overall Scores

IOC urges Beijing to get ready for 2008, avoid Athens-like delays

The Associated Press

BEIJING — The IOC has a word of advice for organizers of the 2008 Olympics — prepare.

Determined to avoid a repeat of the construction delays that threatened the Athens Games, Olympic officials arrived in Beijing on Wednesday.

"You have to start your preparation early enough, all your operational planning," International Olympic Committee executive director Gilbert Felli said during a news conference. "It is very complicated, the operations aspect of it."

Athens put the finishing touches on venues with only days remaining. The IOC prefers that facilities be finished a year ahead of time so they can be tested, Felli said.

China is actually slowing its Olympics construction from its initial ambitious pace following IOC concerns about cash flow. It had planned to build 10 stadiums but will now build five to ensure that venue costs stay below \$2 billion. Beijing also expects to spend \$24.2 billion on new subway lines, roads and other facilities by 2008.

IOC delegates will meet with Chinese organizers for several days to discuss such issues as sports, marketing, finances and media, committee spokeswoman Giselle Davies said. IOC President Jacques Rogge is to meet Chinese President Hu Jintao and the head of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games.

A delegation led by Athens

Sports briefs

2004 president Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki will meet with Chinese organizers so "there is a transfer of knowledge," Davies said. That way, "there is less need to, what we say, reinvent the wheel," she added.

Bowling Green suspends seven hockey players

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio — Bowling Green suspended seven hockey players Tuesday, one day after a newspaper showed coach Scott Paluch a photo it said was of a nude player whose body was covered with profanity.

Ryan Barnett, Steve Brudzewski, Bryan Dobek, Mike Falk, Don Morrison, Brett Pilkington and Alex Rogosheske were suspended for violating team policy, the school said in a statement.

Paluch and athletic director Paul Krebs declined to discuss the photo during a news conference announcing the suspensions. The Sentinel-Tribune newspaper reported it received a photo Monday that showed a Bowling Green hockey player face down, with profanity and racial slurs scrawled on his body in colored marker.

R. Gordon leaving Childress to start own team

WELCOME, N.C. — Robby Gordon is leaving Richard Childress Racing at the end of the season to

drive for what he hopes will be his own Nextel Cup team in 2005.

"Now is the time for me to start my future as an owner at NASCAR's highest level," he said Tuesday.

Gordon was co-owner of a short-lived Cup team in 2000 with John Menard and Mike Held. Gordon then drove for several teams in 2001 before winding up with Childress and winning the season-ending race at New Hampshire. That victory earned Gordon a full-time ride with RCR.

Gordon, who has run a part-time Busch Series schedule this year with his own team, said he has been putting the pieces in place for a Cup team for most of 2004.

"We don't have anything to announce yet for next season," he said. "We hope to make some announcements soon."

Spencer arrested while police try to serve warrant on son

CORNELIUS, N.C. — NASCAR driver Jimmy Spencer was arrested and accused of interfering with police officers as they attempted to serve a warrant on his son.

Officers went to Spencer's home Sunday night to arrest James Jonathan Spencer Jr., 18, on a misdemeanor charge of injury to personal property, police records show. He is accused of pouring paint on two cars at a Cornelius home Oct. 6.

The elder Spencer was charged with two misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct and resisting a public officer.

Lukas banks on filly in Breeders' Classic

By BETH HARRIS

The Associated Press

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — The king of Breeders' Cup trainers is pursuing his record 18th victory on horse racing's biggest stage in a surprising way.

D. Wayne Lukas said Azeri will run against the boys in the \$4 million Classic, instead of the \$2 million Distaff, where the 2002 Horse of the Year would have been the likely favorite.

Azeri won the Distaff in 2002 but was injured and did not run in last year's race. By choosing the tougher Classic for the 6-year-old mare, Lukas is taking a shot at history.

She will be just the third female to run in the 1 1/4-mile Classic since the Breeders' Cup began in 1984, and would be the first to win it. Triptych was sixth in 1986, and Jolypha was third in 1992.

"We're going to swing for the fences," Lukas said Tuesday.

"She's already won the Distaff. We're going to see if we can do something that hasn't been done before."

Azeri was pre-entered in the Distaff and the Classic, and it was believed Lukas was leaning toward running her in the Distaff. After talking with owner Michael Paulson, though, the de-

cision was made to give it another try against males.

"She's very good right now," Lukas said.

Paulson weighed the pros and cons of challenging the boys, then told Lukas he was going to go for it.

"He agonized over it," Lukas said.

Azeri is coming off a victory in the Spinster Stakes at Keeneland nearly three weeks ago. She has three victories in seven starts since Lukas took over as her trainer this year. Paulson fired Laura de Seroux after Azeri's 11-race winning streak was snapped last year. Hall of Famer Mike Smith, who rode Azeri to 15 wins in 18 starts, was dumped, too.

The mare has won 17 of 23 starts and earned \$3,959,820.

Azeri ran against males for the first time at Belmont Park on May 31, finishing eighth in the Metropolitan Mile. Lukas compared Azeri's challenge to a poker game.

"This is Texas. The Breeders' Cup is kind of a Texas Hold 'Em, and we're going all-in," he said. "We're going to play our queen."

The 69-year-old trainer has a record 140 Breeders' Cup starts, with 17 victories and more than \$18 million in earnings.

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SPORTS

Cassell, Sprewell grumbling
about money with season
just a week away, Page 47



Pedro masterful in Game 3



Martinez deftly handles Cardinals, puts Red Sox on path to Series sweep

BY BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The Boston Red Sox are making this look too easy.

Because at this rate, only a curse can stop them. So far, the St. Louis Cardinals can't.

With their baseball stars and lucky stars aligned, the Red Sox moved within one victory of their first World Series championship since 1918, cruising past the Cardinals 4-1 Tuesday night.

No one knows better than Pedro Martinez, Manny Ramirez and the wild-card Red Sox that a 3-0 lead can be overcome; they just became the first team to do it in the postseason, against the New York Yankees.

But no one knows better than the Red Sox how elusive that last win can be; four times since that last title they've been one victory

away, and four times they've lost. "We're not going to relax that much," Martinez said. "I don't think our team's going to relax as much as the Yankees were."

Martinez made his long-awaited Series debut a special one, bailed out when Ramirez and David Ortiz did as much damage with their arms as bats.

Backed by the surprising show of defense, the Red Sox got in position to sweep the club that led the majors in wins this

Pedro Martinez
Red Sox pitcher

"We're not going to relax that much. I don't think our team's going to relax as much as the Yankees were."

year. And to think that last week, they were three outs from getting swept in the AL Championship Series.

"It's something you've got to notice. It's possible," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "Hard not to get discouraged. They didn't."

SEE PEDRO ON PAGE 51

Boston Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez points to the sky as he walks off the field after retiring the St. Louis Cardinals in the seventh inning of Game 3 of the World Series on Tuesday in St. Louis. Martinez allowed just three hits in seven shutout innings as Boston took a 3-0 lead in the Series with a 4-1 victory.

AP



AP

A St. Louis fan shows his frustration toward the end of Game 3.



Game 4 of the World Series was played too late to be included in this edition. See Friday's paper for complete game coverage.

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- Cardinals have frozen on baseball's big stage Page 50

Steelers have streak of their own on the line in matchup vs. Patriots

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Lancers' Billington in running for European cross country title
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